

UN pledges to take over camps soon

Kurdish fighters sweep back as Iraqis withdraw

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ZAKHO AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

HEAVILY armed Kurdish guerrillas arrived in the northern Iraqi town of Zakho yesterday, hours after Baghdad withdrew most of its forces there.

British military sources, who took over control of the town from American troops, reported that there were signs of an influx of Kurdish refugees heading towards the first of the newly established camps of blue and white tents in a valley two miles to the east of Zakho.

During the day, a group of armed Kurdish guerrillas arrived noisily in Zakho, displaying a formidable assortment of weaponry. Their arrival poses a dilemma for the allies, who are seeking to repatriate hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees from the Turkish border mountains while avoiding a policing role that will get them bogged down in Iraq's internal conflict.

Yesterday, President Bush said that American troops would stay in northern Iraq as long as needed to help Kurdish refugees. He again urged the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein, saying "it's

only terror that's keeping him in power".

However, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, said that the United Nations would take over the Kurdish refugee camps near Zakho in a matter of days. His remarks yesterday appeared designed to counter criticism that the UN has been reluctant to assume control of the allied safe havens.

Western diplomats questioned whether such a short timetable would prove feasible, noting that only one camp had been built so far and that Kurds in the mountains had yet to move into it.

"We intend to take over as soon as possible," Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said as he arrived at UN headquarters in New York to resume talks on the takeover. "There is no problem," he said. "It's a question of days."

Diplomats say that Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's attitude has changed since Iraq formally requested the UN to take control of the camps. The talks are concentrating on how to guarantee the safety of the Kurds once allied troops withdraw. Washington has said from the outset that it expected the UN to take over the camps. However, Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, acknowledged this week that there were "many questions that have to be ironed out", principally the matter of the camps' security.

President Bush said yesterday that American troops would stay in northern Iraq "as long as it takes to be sure these refugees are taken care of and not a minute longer". Mr Bush predicted that Saddam would eventually be deposed because "it's only terror that's keeping him in power" and "history has a way of taking care of tyrants", but the administration has ceased predicting his imminent demise.

As long as American troops patrolled the camps he expected no further trouble from the Iraqi military. "They don't want to tangle with the US again... I don't think Saddam is dumb enough to want to run into US troops again."

In Zakho yesterday, Royal Marine commandos were showered with gifts of yoghurt and tea from Kurdish residents. The marines made it clear that no armed Iraqis,

beyond the 50 police with side-arms permitted under an allied-Iraqi agreement, would be tolerated in the town after the deadline to leave expires at 6am today. The marines were inundated with information about alleged Iraqi secret policemen who have stayed on.

Zakho was teeming with rumours of revenge attacks against Iraqis by Kurds, and more violence is expected as the Kurdish *peshmerga* come down from the mountains. The mayor of Zakho said that five Iraqi policemen were wounded, three seriously, when gunmen attacked police headquarters in the town with a grenade and machinegun late on Thursday.

Talks in Baghdad aimed at achieving peace in the Kurdish region received a setback when Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, who led a Kurdish delegation, said there were still obstacles in the way of an agreement. "There has been no agreement yet, only the start of negotiations," Mr Talabani said. Further talks next week faced three main obstacles: the extent of the territory that would be autonomous, the extent of self-rule and the region's relations with the outside world.

Mr Bush said that he hoped peace might result from the talks. However, it was not enough for Saddam to "undo some evil" by striking a deal with the Kurds, and he reiterated that "there will not be normal relations with this man as long as I'm president of the United States".

UN sources in southern Turkey expressed surprise at the claims that the UN would soon be in a position to take control of the new camps in Iraq. The first UN relief convoy is not due to cross the border from Turkey into Iraq until this weekend at the earliest. UN sources said that a measles epidemic had already begun to spread in some of the main refugee camps. Meanwhile, Iraq announced yesterday that it is to disband its one-million strong popular army, manned mainly by 16- and 17-year-olds and men over the age of 45. Some served in Kuwait during Iraq's seven-month occupation.

Hopes of Iran thaw, page 7

Baker cuts short Middle East talks

By RICHARD BERTON IN JERUSALEM

THE American Secretary of State, James Baker, abruptly ended his Middle East peace talks at a crucial point yesterday after his mother died in Houston, Texas.

However, Mr Baker raised hopes that he was not returning to America empty-handed. President Bush said after a telephone conversation with Mr Baker that there was "some reason for optimism". In Jerusalem, it was unclear what progress Mr Baker had made in his six-week initiative. Although he said before meeting the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, yesterday that differences remained

on key issues, he has won some minor concessions from the Israelis and a pledge by Moscow to take part as co-sponsor in proposed regional peace talks.

Arab states neighbouring Israel have shown little flexibility, but none has ruled out participation in the forum. The role of the Soviet Union may prove decisive, with the foreign minister, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, due to visit the Middle East next month. It will be the first time such a senior Soviet figure has visited Israel.

Baker optimistic, page 7



Helping hand: a Royal Marine makes friends with a local child as he patrols the streets of Zakho yesterday. The British show of strength is designed to attract thousands of Kurdish refugees down from the snow-capped mountains

Minister defends hospital cutbacks

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PETER MULLIGAN

THE government was thrown onto the defensive last night, less than a month after the introduction of its health reforms, when a dispute erupted over plans by two self-governing hospital groups to cut 900 jobs to balance their books.

Labour health spokesman, the British Medical Association,



GED.

senior clinicians, health service unions, and hospital workers denounced the folly of putting cash before patient care and demanded more money for the Guy's trust, south London, and the Bradford trust, West Yorkshire. However, Peter Griffiths, chief executive of the Guy's trust, said that the cutbacks were needed to head off a £7 million deficit.

The opposition parties tried unsuccessfully in the Commons to force an immediate ministerial statement. That seems almost certain to be offered on Monday as the government seeks to escape from being forced to justify health service job reductions only days before polling in the May council elections.

The dispute over the cuts, which will affect four hospitals and could preface more shake-outs in other parts of the

Continued on page 20, col 5

Gorbachev to impose 'strict regime' in May

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev, in the first concrete sign of what his new agreement with republican leaders will mean in practice, said yesterday he would soon introduce a "special, strict regime" to key sectors of the economy, such as the output of consumer goods.

While he gave few details, the new regime is expected to include strict curbs on industrial unrest, and provide for the use of force to prevent such actions as the takeover by strikers of key utilities and railway junctions.

The Soviet leader, speaking one day after fighting off a bid by hardliners to oust him from the leadership of the Communist party said he would introduce a "special, stringent regime of work and supervision", to basic industries through a presidential decree to be issued in May.

He told parliament that the leadership had to take tough, unpopular measures or else all its other policies would fail. "We cannot shirk this task, because if we do not hold fast, then everything will collapse," Mr Gorbachev added.

His announcement was expected to cause fury among the organisers of the eight week old miners' strike and embarrass the Russian leader, Boris Yeltsin, who joined

eight other republican chiefs in concluding a landmark political agreement with Mr Gorbachev on Tuesday.

Mr Yeltsin is due to meet the miners' leaders over the weekend, and try to persuade them to return to work. Several have already said they are disappointed with him for giving in to Mr Gorbachev, and suggested they could even broaden their strike action by encouraging other industries to join.

However, Mr Yeltsin has stoutly defended the accord, saying he has won extensive concessions to the independence of his Russian republic, and promising to present the miners with some formula that would provide a "neat way out" of their dispute.

As Mr Gorbachev spoke, millions of workers across the Russian Federation took part in a token one-hour stoppage, mounted by the once docile official trade unions, to demand the doubling in pay and full wage indexation.

In the industrial city of Sverdlovsk, a key centre of heavy engineering and the defence industry, organisers claimed that 800,000 workers at a total of 3,000 enterprises took part in the protest.

Tuesday's inter-republican agreement has been hailed by Mr Gorbachev as a mandate

for firmer action against strikes and lawlessness. The text states somewhat ambiguously that "participants at the meeting spoke in favour of introducing a special regime" in key sectors.

Although its wording is deliberately vague, this section of the nine-party agreement had been seized on by miners' leaders even before Mr Gorbachev's announcement as a harbinger of repression.

Foreign relations are giving Mr Gorbachev more encouragement as Moscow and Washington seem to be narrowing their differences over conventional arms in Europe, but progress may still not be quick enough for them to meet their target of holding a summit by the end of June, Western diplomats say.

Kremlin denounced, page 6

Council tax may have nine bands

A leaked document has added to the confusion over the replacement for the poll tax, reports Douglas Broom

THE government is prepared to consider significant changes to the new council tax if ministers are persuaded that it is unfair to people living in areas where property prices are high.

After a day of confusion, Downing Street confirmed the authenticity of a confidential Inland Revenue circular asking valuers to group properties into nine bands instead of the seven proposed for the new tax.

The document, leaked to Labour's local government spokesman, David Blunkett, sets out new bands at the top and bottom of the seven-point scale announced on Tuesday by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary. Under the existing proposals there is one band for all properties worth up to £40,000 and another for all those more than £160,000. The new bands create groupings from zero to £30,000, £30,000 to £40,000, £40,000 to £50,000, £50,000 to £60,000, £60,000 to £70,000, £70,000 to £80,000 and more than £80,000.

A Downing Street spokesman said: "If at the end of the consultation process there is a suggestion that nine bands would be better than seven, this exercise would provide ministers with firm information." While insisting that the cabinet was in favour of a seven-band system, he said the government was committed to genuine consultation on the tax and would listen to suggestions put to it.

Last night, Neil Kinnock wrote to the prime minister saying that Whitehall confusion over the number of property bands for the council tax had added "a new layer of chaos to an already tangled situation".

The Labour leader asked John Major if the decision to prepare valuations on the basis of nine bands was an admission that Labour had been right to object to the £160,000 at the same rate.

Critics had condemned the proposed seven-point banding arrangements because a person living in a £160,000 house would have

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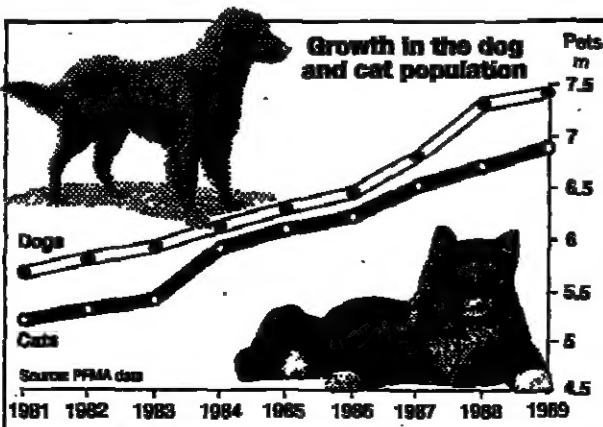
Britain's cats claw their way up-market

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITISH dogs may have had their day. Dog ownership peaked three years ago, according to the Henley Centre for Forecasting, and the future holds the prospect of a dog's life for dogs.

Over the next five years, the forecasters say, economic and demographic factors will militate against dogs. They calculate that the cat population will increase at more than twice the rate of dogs in the coming years, so that by 1995 the species' numbers will be approximately equal at around 7.8 million each.

Cats score over dogs in one other important respect in the survey. It was found that



felines enjoy a notably higher social profile than dogs. While dogs are particularly favoured by working class households, cat ownership is of similar popularity across the social

gauge future trends in pet ownership and to assess the economic implications for petfood manufacturers and retailers. Their findings were that not only are British dogs likely to shrink in size, but by the middle of this decade they are likely to be outnumbered by their arch rivals and ancient enemies, cats.

Researchers estimate that half of all households own at least one pet, with more than a quarter having a dog and a slightly smaller number, a cat. The dog population has grown by almost a third over the past decade, and is now about 7.4 million, while the cats have multiplied by 40 per cent to reach 6.9 million.

Much of the growth in pet numbers has come from the

growth in the proportion of households owning more than one animal, which accounts for a continuing increase in the number of dogs though the number of owners is now diminishing. The growth in animal numbers has also been aided by a growth in the number of middle-aged households, who are those most likely to own cats and dogs.

In the 1980s there was a shift in preference from small or medium sized dogs to big ones, but the forecasters expect this trend to be reversed in the more financially straitened 1990s. Dogs will get smaller, they say, partly because it is 30 times more expensive to feed an Irish wolfhound than a Yorkshire terrier.

Fraud enquiry

The Serious Fraud Office is investigating a £3.5 million fraud suffered by National Home Loans, the mortgage lender. Page 21

The Times

The price of The Times will rise to 40p from Monday (45p on Saturdays).

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Police
chief sent
to DPP

Mother who took bus to raid building societies is jailed

By RAY CLANCY

A MOTHER collapsed sobbing in court yesterday when she was jailed for four years after admitting robbing seven building societies.

Susan Jones turned to crime because she was unable to pay family bills and debts after she lost one of her part-time jobs and her husband was made redundant. Kingston crown court was told. Jailing Jones, aged 37, of Hampton, west London, Judge Wakley said that she had carried out "wicked crimes".

The court had been told that she committed most of the robberies after taking her twin daughters, aged four and two, to school. She obtained over £7,000 from the raids between September and November last year and travelled to and from the scenes of the crime by bus.

Philip King, for the defence, said that Jones had been looking after her dying mother and sick aunt in the months before the robberies. Her husband had lost his job and she took on as many part-time jobs as she could, working night and day. Her aunt died and Jones had to be treated in hospital for pneumonia and glandular fever and was diagnosed as being clinically suicidal.

When she lost a cleaning job and a housing association threatened to repossess the family home she sold her wedding ring but was still unable to pay mounting debts. The only reason this "decent,

industrious woman" turned to crime was to help her family escape overwhelming debts which piled up after she made a promise to her dying mother to care for the whole family, Mr King said. She had been faced with an intolerable situation and although she deserved to be punished she also desperately needed the court's help.

The court was told that she tried to disguise herself by wearing a baggy coat and sunglasses and walked into the Chelsea Building Society in Twickenham, west London. She passed a note under the security screen to a cashier which read: "This is a hold-up. Don't panic. I have got a gun so just do as I say. Put the money in used notes in plastic bags and pass them to me. Wait five minutes and then raise the alarm."

She used the same technique in several other building societies, including one in Great Yarmouth when she was on holiday there with her family. Jones even went into the same branch twice. Staff at the Britannia Building Society in Twickenham recognised her on October 19 because she had robbed the same branch two weeks before.

The day before she committed her last robbery she was so frightened that she telephoned the Samaritans, who advised her to give herself up. A photograph of Jones taken by a security camera appeared in a national newspaper and her sister rang her to say she looked like the robber. She then confessed to all seven robberies at a police station.

"Mrs Jones's sister had no idea that the two were one and the same. It was conscience that made her give herself up," Mr King said.

● Gavin Cameron, aged 18, of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, was sentenced to 21 months' youth custody at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for robbing a building society. He was armed with a paint gun.

The court was told that Cameron, a devout churchgoer, carried out the raid on a Woolwich Building Society office in the City to try to save his father from going to prison for bad debts. He took £300 but was caught by police shortly afterwards as he tried to hide under a car.

The court was told that Cameron planned the raid after watching a *Crimestwatch* programme on television which gave details of a £6,000 bank raid by a masked man. Cameron pleaded guilty.

Michael Carroll, for the prosecution, said Cameron made several trips to the building society before picking up the courage to carry out the robbery with a Magnum replica gun capable only of firing paint pellets.



Mower murder plot wife sentenced

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BARRISTER'S wife who plotted with her lover to kill her husband by faking an accident with his ride-on lawnmower was jailed for eight years yesterday.

Susan Whybrow, aged 50, was found guilty last month at Norwich Crown Court of planning the murder of her husband Christopher with her lover Dennis Saunders, aged 35, a flying instructor.

Saunders of Endeavour Place, Colchester, Essex, was jailed for 10 years. He had met Mrs Whybrow when she took up flying lessons and an affair developed. The prosecution said the couple plotted to kill her husband because they wanted to gain control of the £400,000, 12-acre property.

Charles Kellert, for the prosecution, had said that in "the most bizarre and hare-brained murder plot imaginable" Mrs Whybrow suggested to her husband that they should make love on the sitting room carpet of their farmhouse at Leavenheath.

Julian Beavan, QC, for Whybrow, said that at the time of the conspiracy she was confused, depressed and entangled in an emotional web.

No fear of flying: Squadron Leader John Mardon, who had a heart-lung transplant eight months ago, with his wife Jeanne before taking a back seat in a dual-control Jaguar jet at RAF Coltishall, Norfolk, for his first flight since his operation.

After the 70-minute flight over the Welsh mountains he said: "It was great, absolutely fantastic. I feel absolutely fine and what I want to do now is find out when I can sign up for astronaut training."

Sgt Ldr Mardon, aged 40, second in command of 54 Squadron at Coltishall, is to be made a wing commander in July. He was said of his flight: "It was John's dream and he has fulfilled it."

Christ 'feigned death' to survive the cross

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

JESUS Christ did not die on the cross and might have feigned his death in a pre-meditated attempt to survive crucifixion, according to an article in the *Journal of the Royal College of Physicians*.

He might have lost consciousness because of diminished blood supply to the brain and is more likely to have been resuscitated than resurrected. His subsequent appearances could be explained by suggestibility among his followers.

The hypothesis is put forward by Trevor Lloyd Davies, aged 82, a retired physician and former chief medical adviser to the employment department, and his wife Margaret, a theologian. They suggest that the flogging Jesus received led to his early collapse on the cross, and that he was removed from it much sooner than was usual because he seemed to be dead.

Dr and Mrs Lloyd Davies say that, after six hours on the cross, Jesus gave out a cry. "The bystanders were in no doubt that he had died. Death from crucifixion usually took from three to four days from prolonged inability to breathe against gravity. His ashen skin and immobility were mistaken for death ... The cry may not have been any more than a loud expiration preceding syncope (fainting)."

"Oxygen supply to the brain remained minimal, but above a critical level, until the circulation was restored when he was taken down from the cross and laid on the ground. As Jesus showed signs of life, he was not placed in a tomb, but taken away and tended."

The authors say Christ's later appearances, "whether real or supposed", are not compelling evidence for or against resurrection or resuscitation. "His followers underwent a transmagical inhibition, a state of activity of the brain in which hysterical suggestibility frequently occurs."

They say that those who do not accept the Gospels must consider "whether the whole episode was planned by Jesus and his followers, possibly at Gethsemane, that death would be feigned so that early removal from the cross might be secured".

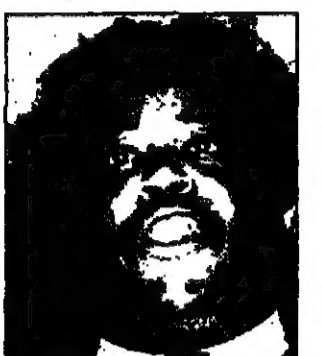
Preacher's black power tour delayed for 24 hours

By PETER VICTOR

THE expected arrival in Britain yesterday of the Reverend Al Sharpton, an outspoken New York-based black activist, for a five-day visit was delayed by 24 hours.

An associate said Mr Sharpton had been detained by "other business". His secretary said he had missed his flight.

Mr Sharpton's arrival was being viewed with concern by police in southeast London where he plans to head a march protesting at the killing of Roland Adams, aged 15, allegedly stabbed to death by white youths in Thamesmead.



Sharpton: police concern about his visit

Mr Sharpton told reporters in America that he wanted to meet Rolan's West Indian-born parents, Richard Adams, Rolan's father, said he was concerned that media interest in Mr Sharpton's visit would detract from the march.

Chief Supt John Philpott, head of policing in Thamesmead, said police were doing excellent work to catch the "small number of young people committing racial attacks". He was concerned about the effect of media coverage of the planned march and urged activists to co-operate with police.

The right-wing Monday Club urged the government to ban the preacher from entering the country. Peter Lloyd, immigration minister said there were no plans for this but the situation was under review.

Mr Sharpton will sign books in Tottenham today and give two sermons in southwest London tomorrow. He planned to tour Brixton, Toxteth, Moss Side and other inner city areas where racial tension has sparked violence.

Recession ignored as bookings for holidays double

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is forgetting the recession, the Gulf war and the winter snows and is determined to go on holiday.

Travel agents, who for more than three months seemed convinced that they would all soon be out of business, are smiling again as high street travel shops report twice as many customers booking holidays compared with the same time last year.

"We had become pretty desperate," Peter Rothwell, marketing director of Lunn Poly, which has more than 500 shops throughout Britain, said. "Now some places are selling twice as many holidays as last year and the overall market has never looked better."

Only in the southeast, where the recession has hit harder than other regions, is the new determination to get away proving less than overwhelming. Traditionally the southeast accounts for around a third of all holiday sales, but so far this year it has slumped to 27 per cent while

the north, which normally has the same percentage share of the market, has jumped to 40 per cent. "If the south was as enthusiastic as the north we would have sold out by now," Mr Rothwell said.

Andrew Wilson, commercial director of Thomas Cook — whose staff were asked to take a pay cut when things were at their blackest — was trying hard not to sound too excited by the new increase in bookings. "Bookings are well ahead of last year," he said, "but it is still early days. We won't be reinstating the pay levels until we have a clear indication of how long the market holds up at this level."

Even so he expects the total number of summer holidays taken this year to be no more than 10 per cent down on last, and possibly no more than 5 per cent down. That kind of optimistic forecast would have been unthinkable a few weeks ago.

Sales in the week ending January 13 were running at 30 per cent up on the previous year, according to Lunn Poly, but plunged overnight by 65 per cent. They remained at less than half the previous year's levels until the weekend ended when they suddenly increased to be 61 per cent ahead of the same period last year and have increased almost daily since then.

Major areas again the most popular holiday destination this summer with 12 per cent of all customers choosing the island, followed by the US, the Canaries, the Spanish mainland and the Algarve. There has also been a sharp increase in demand for cruising.

Welsh team manager is cleared

TERRY Yorath, manager of the Welsh national football team, was cleared of a drink-driving offence yesterday after a certificate of analysis stating he was twice the legal limit was ruled inadmissible by Swansea magistrates. A charge of driving with excess alcohol, changed to driving while unfit through drink, was dismissed.

Police said that Mr Yorath, who admitted drinking whiskey and lemonade, was drunk when they stopped his car after it was seen veering across a road in Swansea on December 6. Mr Yorath denied being drunk and said his eyes were glazed through tiredness.

Apathy reigns as queen of the dirt-diggers holds court

Kitty Kelley went to Harrods yesterday to less than avid interest, Joe Joseph found

PECULIARLY, considering she has just published a book that is selling faster than Big Macs in Moscow and which many Washington bigwigs find more unsavoury, there was nobody to mob the blow-dried and hair-sprayed Kitty Kelley when she arrived at Harrods' book hall yesterday morning.

The tabloids had cruelly dropped her like yesterday's B-movie starlet after dogging her all week, rummaging through her Dorchester hotel dustbins for dirt on the dirt-digger. Even the public had grown bored. Ringed by her entourage of publicists, publishers and bodyguards, she had come to sign books and pose for photographers.

A handful of photographers came and went. The public never came. "Short notice," said Harrods, "basically a photo-call anyway." The cameras stopped flashing after three minutes. Miss Kelley was either unaware that there were no longer camera lenses or public gazes staring at her, or, after a week of dawn-to-dusk interviews with the British media, she had forgotten how to rein back her extra-long parallel ski lips into a bored, what-am-I-here-for pucker.

As she stared out uncomfortably at a puddle of uninterested book browsers, or down at the title page of



Kelley: smile wavered, so did the public

her Nancy Reagan biography as she signed copies for Harrods sales staff, Miss Kelley continued to smile awkwardly but bravely.

Perhaps Harrods customers don't like the scum. A few had telephoned in their orders, others will settle for an off-the-shelf "Best,

Kitty Kelley". Why does she bother to show up to sign a few books, when sales are already well into hundreds of thousands? "Because I love bookshops, and I do whatever I can to help them," Mohamed Al-Fayed, the owner of Harrods, must weep with thanks for such thoughtfulness.

"If you'd given us a bit more notice," said Michael Cole, Harrods' PR supremo, "we'd have had a Frank Sinatra tape playing."

"Oh, I would have felt so at home," purred Kitty in her black catsuit under a Chanel-style green jacket. Getting bored, or behind in her quota of book-signing, "Best, Kitty Kelley" shrunk to "Kitty Kelley", although her estimation of the absent British reader remained generous. "Here you see it as a book that shines a mirror on America. In America, they see it as a book that shines a mirror on the American press, asleep at the wheel throughout the 1980s."

It was a phrase she must have repeated, slightly changed, oh, 470 times over the past week. Once delivered, the internal tape loop clicked off, rewound, and the quote was ready for its next broadcast in Dublin today. Miss Kelley signed the Harrods Visitors Book — "Oh, what an honour!" — she rose, she moved towards *Red Linen and Glassware* surrounded by a swarm of hangers-on, like bees on a jam sandwich. Then she exited, pursued by no one.

Laird tales, page 6
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Development of derelict land marks latest stage of Birmingham's renaissance

Heseltine puts focus again on inner-city regeneration

By CRAIG SETON

A POLITICIAN and a city whose fortunes are both enjoying a renaissance came together yesterday when Michael Heseltine visited Birmingham during his nationwide tour of inner cities.

Mr Heseltine's seven-city tour is his first as environment secretary since he last held that position in the early years of Margaret Thatcher's premiership. He was then given the task of inspiring schemes to regenerate the bleak, rundown areas of inner cities in the wake of riots.

Yesterday, he fitted back comfortably into that role and returned to Birmingham to see projects backed by government funding that are breathing new life into areas once scarred by dereliction. The city is at the peak of other activity aimed at achieving the status of an international business and cultural centre.

Mr Heseltine was in confident mood after announcing details of the proposed new council tax in the Commons earlier this week. He clearly wanted to talk more about inner city revival than the poll tax issue that has dominated his duties since he returned to the cabinet.

He called the poll tax a dead electoral issue, but as the architect of its replacement, he would not be drawn to say whether it had been launched in time to restore Tory fortunes in the May 2 local elections, especially in Birmingham, the jewel in the crown of the big municipalities, which has been Labour-controlled for seven years. Mr Heseltine said: "I do not think elections are about one issue. We hope people will think what we have done is fair and comments indicate they do think that."

Tory prospects in Birmingham need revival. Labour has an overall majority of more than 20 seats and most of the 39 being contested next week are Conservative.

The Tories fear they could lose several and are doomed to remain in opposition in a city described by its Labour leaders as a model of sensible socialism, enjoying a steadfast revival after the last recession.

Birmingham has just opened its £160 million international convention centre with a new symphony hall and last year persuaded Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, now the Birmingham Royal Ballet, to relocate to the city.

Mr Heseltine toured parts of east Birmingham where 2,000 acres of derelict land are being cleared and redeveloped by Birmingham Heartlands, a development agency formed by a partnership between the city council and five big construction companies. There he handed over the keys to a £52,000 home, part of a new urban village in Bordesley. The house would fall between bands B and C of the new council tax and government figures suggest that Finian and Angela Devlin, the new owners, would pay between £320 and £360, compared with their poll tax bill of over £800 last year. However, they would not disclose whether it would persuade them to vote Conservative.

Halfway through his whistle-stop tour of the inner city, Mr Heseltine was whisked off by Conservative councillors to visit Sundridge Junior/Infant School in the suburb of Oscott. They wanted to show him the dilapidated, wartime prefabricated huts still used as classrooms and for which they blame the Labour council. Mr Heseltine promised to convey what he had seen to Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary. Reg Hales, the Tory opposition leader, said the Labour council spent £7 million on neighbourhood offices, but could not provide decent classes for schoolchildren.

Leading article, page 9



Breaking new ground: Mr Heseltine wields a silver-plated pickaxe on his visit to Bordesley urban village

Labour scorns Tory target of 5p cut in basic rate tax

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR last night poured scorn on the government's long-term objective of cutting the basic rate of income tax to 20p in the pound, saying that such a move would cost £29 billion in lost revenue and would be economically and socially irresponsible.

The attack by John Smith, the shadow chancellor, amounted to a further move by the Opposition to dent the credibility of the Conservatives' tax-cutting creden-

tials. Labour leaders recognise that the Tories' reputation as the party of low taxation has proved an electoral asset in the past and they are making repeated attempts to devalue its electoral appeal.

The Opposition is committed to undercutting Conservative tax rates at the bottom of the income scale. Earlier this week it produced figures suggesting that the average family had gained little from the tax-cutting years under

Margaret Thatcher. The decision by Norman Lamont, the chancellor, to restate in the Budget the goal of a 20p basic rate of tax when it was prudent to do so was widely seen by Tory MPs as a signal that one of the most radical elements of the Thatcher inheritance would be safeguarded by John Major.

Last night, Mr Smith recalled that pledge and estimated that the cumulative cost of reducing taxes by 1p every year for the five-year life of a parliament was £29 billion. Speaking at Stirling university, he said: "There is no plausible economic or social justification for a £29 billion tax giveaway."

"To cut income tax by 5p is economically irresponsible because a fiscal relaxation on such a scale will run serious risks with both inflation and the balance of payments. And to cut income tax by 5p is socially unwise because our investment needs in skills, in schools, in hospitals and in our infrastructure are simply too great to be ignored any longer."

Mr Smith argued that it was impossible for the prime minister to square his desire for better public services with his tax promises.

"How can Mr Major improve the standards in our schools and hospitals if at the same time he is planning to raise £29 billion less in tax? Tax cuts and higher levels of public investment are mutually exclusive. You cannot have both."

However, ministers have argued that the past ten years shows that tax cuts increase economic activity and so generate higher revenues and real increases in public spending.

Call to keep two-tier planning

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS for a reorganisation of local government could undermine attempts to protect the countryside from large-scale development, David Putnam, the film director, said yesterday.

Mr Putnam, president of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said that the present planning system, which had emerged as "one of the most powerful environmental tools we have", must be safeguarded in any reform. He told the District Planning Officers Society, in Norfolk, that the present two-tier system of county and district councils offered a series of checks and balances on planning.

A government consultation paper has called for the creation of a single tier of local government in most parts of England from 1994. Mr Putnam said, however, that a single body could not be expected to consider strategic as well as local issues.

Not only was the present planning system a bulwark against unwanted development, it also had a crucial role in ensuring that new buildings and transport networks were environmentally acceptable, he said. Dismantling the two-tier system would also weaken the role of local planning authorities in protecting the environment.

At present, county councils are required to draw up strategic structure plans while the districts prepare their own local plans and deal with planning applications within policy guidelines laid down in the county plans.

Tickell urges action to avert global disaster

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the most pessimistic pictures to be given by a senior political figure of the future facing the world because of environmental change was painted last night by Sir Crispin Tickell, the former British ambassador to the United Nations and the man credited with the "greening" of Margaret Thatcher.

Giving the annual St George's House lecture in St George's Chapel, Windsor, Sir Crispin, environmental adviser to John Major, said that accelerating changes to the environment, particularly in the climate and in the mass extinctions of species, could wipe out human life unless there was a shift in thinking away from valuing the earth and its natural resources in economic terms, to seeing their biological value.

Human population increase, he said, was the driving force behind both global warming and the destruction of biodiversity (large numbers of species). He compared the human race to microbes on a laboratory plate with food in its centre, multiplying in accelerating numbers and at their most prolific as they reach the edge. "Then the food runs out, the microbes die in their multi-billions, and extinction takes place."

Sir Crispin told an audience chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh: "For us, unlike the microbes, there is still a chance. But it is clear that accelerating changes to the environment, particularly in changing climate and in limiting the diversity of life, could do profound damage to ourselves: how people live, where they live, whether they live."

So far, he said, all past human civilisations had crashed. None over time had reached a well-regulated steady state with population in balance with natural resources. "There is no reason to believe that ours is any different. Indeed, current signs are to the contrary," he said.



Tickell: "Human life could be wiped out"

Gould rates figures a con trick, MPs say

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR's rates figures would not be difficult to find individuals having to pay over £1,600 a year.

Last night, as Labour began distributing thousands of copies of a new leaflet highlighting its promise of lower bills, Bryan Gould, the party's chief environment spokesman, said that the figures were correct. He said that the council tax introduced two new surcharges, adding £67 to average bills first, to subsidise the wealthiest people in the biggest houses and, second, to give automatic discounts to single people irrespective of their means. The Conservatives were not so much running a council election campaign as running scared, he said.

Michael Brown, Tory MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes, said that Labour's figures had to be increased by at least 40 per cent to lend them any credibility. Capping was worth 30 per cent off bills and competitive tendering 12 per cent. He said that there was a danger of a local authority "binge" sweeping aside Mr Gould's "invented" figures. Andrew Mitchell, MP for Gedling and parliamentary private secretary to John Wakeham, said that Labour plans to neuter the Audit Commission would also push up bills.

They said that Labour's arithmetic was based on the false assumption that a Labour government would retain economy measures such as capping and competitive tendering for council services, all of which it would abolish. "How can you believe Labour's rate figures, which assume rate-capping will remain, when Labour has promised that capping will be abolished?" Mr Nicholls said.

David Martin, Tory MP for Portsmouth South and parliamentary aide to the foreign secretary, said: "Unlike the government, Labour has not proposed any limit on how high bills could climb, so people living in detached houses would be fleeced. It

Ousted MP accused of sour grapes

Two losers in a Labour reselection contest, including the sitting MP, are to appeal against the result. Bill Frost reports

PIARA Khabra, a retired Sikh schoolteacher who this week trounced a veteran Labour MP in a reselection contest, yesterday accused his fellow nominees of sour grapes after he had been served that the result would be questioned.

Mr Khabra, aged 65, easily topped the poll of party candidates to represent Ealing Southall, a safe Labour seat which includes Neil Kinnock's home. Sydney Bidwell, who has held the seat for 25 years, was eliminated from the contest on Thursday night after finishing third.

Both Mr Bidwell and Valerie Vaz, who came second, are lodging appeals with Labour's national executive, alleging procedural irregularities. The constituency vote

must be ratified by the executive.

Mr Khabra, president of the Southall Indian Workers' Association, said yesterday: "If I had been runner-up I would have accepted the result for the sake of party unity at the next election. It is sour grapes."

Dismissing suggestions that the outcome of the poll had been a victory for black activists over a long-serving and assiduous white MP in a largely Asian constituency, Mr Khabra said: "I am capable of representing every section of opinion, every culture and every religion."

"I am a man of the people. I bear no malice. There is a quick fire-up, and then everything is forgotten. I will phone Syd and discuss the deselection once he has



Khabra: "Politics can make you unhappy"

calmed down." In the aftermath of the vote, Mr Bidwell said: "I will definitely be appealing to the national executive on the basis of the code of conduct governing what candidates are supposed to do and not to do."

Court. Polling had been frozen in one ward after complaints over membership irregularities.

Mr Bidwell, aged 74, polled only 58 votes out of 563 cast. He became the third Labour MP in this parliament to be deselected by his local party after John Hughes (Coventry North East) and Ron Brown (Edinburgh Leith). Mr Khabra polled 377 votes.

Yesterday the victor told the also-rans that there should be no bitterness in the aftermath of the selection vote. "Politics is a game which sometimes makes you unhappy. This constituency will return a Labour MP with an increased majority at the next general election," he said.

Labour's national executive will be asked to consider the outcome of the contest in Ealing Southall constituency at a meeting next month. Mr Khabra declined to comment on the outcome of the deliberations.

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School opt out revisited

By JAMIE T

SIXTH FORMS will return many schools which lost under local authority following the government decision to allow grammar schools to change way they are run and their pupils. A ministerial grammar schools, however, unlikely.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said grammar schools would be reintroduced by the back after Kenneth Clarke, cabinet secretary, lifted three-year limit on fundamental changes to a school that opted out of government control.

Count-maintained schools will be able to apply changes in the way they run after 18 months or even after 12 months if they do not believe there is a return to grammar schools as few schools want to become selective. Bob Ralston, chairman of the Grant-Martin School Foundation, said he would not want one headmaster to be able to select pupils to attend although a few

Recession benefits universities

BRITISH universities benefiting from the recession more businesses and organisations are their own. Incomes are down, but universities are not. Universities are not. Universities are not. Universities are not.

Carolyn Brown, general secretary of the British Universities Association, said the recession has been a boon for universities. The recession has been a boon for universities. The recession has been a boon for universities.

There has been a considerable investment programme in generating income. Universities are not. Universities are not. Universities are not.

This week's Times Higher Education Supplement reports that the Universities Statistical Record shows income from "other sources" has risen in terms from £19 million in 1981 to £67 million in 1988-89, mostly from conference business.

The most successful university is Durham, which at almost £4 million and is experimenting with professional holidays. No man university earned million and Warwick million, a five-fold increase since 1980, while in Scotland Heriot-Watt university's £2 million, against £15,000 years ago.

Medical

Kenneth Calman is to be government's chief medical officer. Professor Calman, Scottish home affairs minister, was Glasgow university and professor of postgraduate to retire from the civil service.

Police accused

More than 20 Merseyside police officers have been named after a landlord claimed that members of the police force were in his house near Cannock, Staffordshire police said.

Rivers abused

Rivers are being used as dustbins, the National Rivers Authority said yesterday. Each year in the Thames valley region 2,000 tons of rubbish and 7,000 tons of market trolleys are discarded in or near rivers, it said.

Treasure dispute

A man who found a Bronze Age necklace was right in the High Court today to challenge a court verdict that it was a sure find. Dennis Chad of Salisbury, Wiltshire, of the jury was misdirected.

Coroner to go

Stefan Popper, the Shetland coroner, who presided over the Hillsborough inquiry said yesterday that he was resigning for personal reasons.

Schools which opt out will revive lost sixth forms

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

SIXTH forms will return to many schools which lost them under local authority control following the government's decision to allow grant-maintained schools to change the way they are run and choose their pupils. A mass return to grammar schools, however, is unlikely.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said that grammar schools would be reintroduced by the back door after Kenneth Clarke, education secretary, lifted the five-year limit on fundamental changes to schools that had opted out of local government control.

Grant-maintained schools will be able to apply for changes in the way they are run after 18 months or two years but Mr Clarke said that he did not believe there would be a return to grammar schools as few schools would want to become selective.

Bob Balchin, chairman of the Grant-Maintained Schools' Foundation, said "I have not found one head who admits to wanting to return to selection although a few for-

mer grammar schools might want to consider the option. There are schools that would like to add sixth forms, admit girls to their sixth forms, or open junior schools."

Andrew Locke, headmaster of Andeshaw High School, Tameside, Greater Manchester, said: "Parents asked us to consider setting up a sixth form when we first became grant-maintained and the governors will now look at the proposal actively. We will have a problem of accommodation but there may be grants available to help us."

The former grammar school had a sixth form until ten years ago but Mr Locke said: "Not one person has ever mentioned that we should reintroduce selection but parents do want a sixth form."

Many of the 72 grant-maintained schools would find it difficult to finance the rebuilding required to introduce sixth forms. Christopher Hampson, headmaster of St James's School, Bolton, said that he would seek permission to sell half his 11-acre school grounds to raise £750,000 for a sixth form centre.

Roger Perks, headmaster of the Baverstock School, Birmingham, said grant-maintained schools in inner cities could increase the staying on rate after 16 which, despite improvements last year which took the figure to 53 per cent, still lagged behind our competitors.

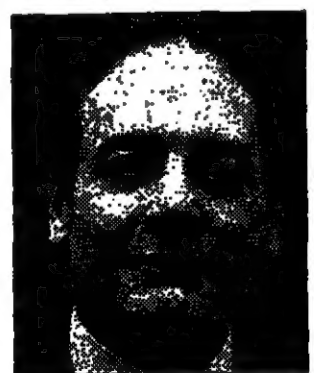
Performance-related pay was "inevitable" for teachers and heads with the creation of a pay review body and teachers should introduce a sensible programme of their own before it is imposed from the outside, David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers, said yesterday.

The association would issue guidelines to all heads and deputies and all schools should adopt them, he told a conference of grant-maintained school heads.

Keston Manor school in Bromley, south London, has become the first to introduce performance-related pay for teachers. John Atkins, the head teacher, can earn up to £3,000 more than his basic salary.

His 45 staff could add £1,000 a year to their salaries if they met the headmaster's targets.

The National Union of Teachers attacked the scheme as "highly divisive".



Balchin: "Heads don't want return to selection"

Medical chief named

Kenneth Calman is to succeed Sir Donald Acheson as the government's chief medical officer, it was announced yesterday. Professor Calman, aged 49, has been chief medical officer, Scottish home and health department, since 1989.

Professor Calman was previously professor of oncology at Glasgow university and later dean of postgraduate medicine and professor of postgraduate medical education. Sir Donald is to retire from the civil service in September.

Police accused

More than 20 Merseyside police officers have been questioned after a landlord complained that members of a police rugby team were unruly and stole food from his public house near Cannock, Staffordshire police said.

Rivers abused

Rivers are being used as dustbins, the National Rivers Authority said yesterday. Each year in the Thames valley region 2,000 tonnes of rubbish and 7,000 supermarket trolleys were discarded in or near rivers, it said.

Treasure dispute

A man who found a gold Bronze Age necklace won the right in the High Court yesterday to challenge a coroner's court verdict that it was treasure trove. Dennis Chaddock of Salisbury, Wiltshire, claims the jury was misdirected.

Coroner to go

Stefan Popper, the Sheffield coroner, who presided over the Hillsborough inquests, said yesterday that he was to resign for personal reasons.

Player guilty

A footballer who assaulted a linesman was conditionally discharged for two years by Exeter magistrates yesterday. Mark Selter, aged 24, had earlier been banned by the FA from playing for five years. He denied the charge.

Wages stolen

Two raiders held 11 staff hostage before stealing £79,000 from a wages van delivering to a London Electricity depot in Enfield, north London, on Thursday.

Firework death

An inquest jury returned a verdict of accidental death yesterday on Michael Darrach, aged 27, who died when a two-kilogramme firework exploded as he packed it with gunpowder at the Le Maître Fireworks factory, Peterborough.

Forger jailed

John Fitzgerald, aged 29, of Southend-on-Sea, Essex, was jailed for ten years yesterday after admitting forging £50,000 on a photocopier. About £8,500 that was in circulation has been recovered.



Space link: Nadia al-Aldarous, Harrogate ladies college head girl, prepares for the school's radio link with Helen Sharman, Britain's first astronaut, who will spend six days in the Mir space station next month on the Anglo-Soviet Juno mission

Parish must share £66,000 windfall

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A RECTOR who wanted to spend a £66,000 windfall on evangelism in his parish has had his plea rejected. A consistory court judge ruled that one third of the money should be paid instead to the diocese.

The development company MEPC paid the £66,000 to erect scaffolding and a crane over the churchyard of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe with St Ann Blackfriars in the City of London. The Rev John Paul, its rector, had objected to plans to divide the windfall between the London Diocesan Fund and his parochial church council.

The Ven George Cassidy, Archdeacon of London, submitted that only £43,000 should be paid to the council and the rest should go to the fund, which finances clergy, their vicarages and other diocesan work. The archdeacon said last night that the case highlighted a wider problem in the diocese, which has 140 out of 450 parishes in urban priority areas.

The 24 parishes and 12 guild churches in the City were relatively wealthy

compared to the rest of the diocese, he said, adding that a church that receives a windfall should in fairness contribute some of it to the wider work of the church.

"Individual parishes cannot be allowed to look only to themselves," he said. "They have to realise that they are part of the wider church and that they share the responsibilities of the wider church."

Mr Paul and Mr Bulmer-Thomas argued that they needed the whole of the £66,000 for the purposes of evangelism. They wanted to use the money "to establish a trust fund for the promotion of evangelism in and around Blackfriars through the spoken word, music and movement or other matters". Money would be spent on extending evangelism through the advanced Sunday school, made up of young adults meeting on Sunday afternoons in the three university terms.

The consistory court hearing took place over two days, one in December last year and one in March this year.

Donations plea as 27m face famine

By ALICE THOMSON

STARVATION is facing 27 million people in the Horn of Africa, half of them children, yet public donations are falling, the Save the Children charity said yesterday. The famine is Africa's worst in living memory but people have become immune to television pictures of skeletal children and are suffering from "donor fatigue".

They excuse themselves for stopping donating by blaming the countries involved for over-population, wars and economic collapse. Next week Save the Children launches its largest appeal for sub-Saharan Africa and is determined to win back the attention of people who have become preoccupied with events in eastern Europe and the Gulf.

The charity has produced a report, *Famine Myths*, aimed at demolishing preconceptions. Jonathan Dimbleby, the broadcaster, said yesterday: "It is vital that people are given the facts so that they can understand that many of those dying in Africa are dying not just from the effects of starvation but also from prejudice."

Somalia sackings, page 6

1991 CARS 1989 PRICES



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Bush offers aid to Hanoi in sign of warming relations

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

FOR the first time since the end of the Vietnam war in 1975, America is to give a small but symbolic amount of financial aid to Hanoi. The American offer of \$1 million (£590,000) for artificial limbs for those injured in the conflict came less than a week after Washington announced it was opening a temporary office in Hanoi to resolve remaining cases of missing American servicemen.

The Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia, Richard Solomon, said that the move "should not be seen as a first step toward normalisation of relations", but officials agreed that they were designed to encourage the slow thaw that began in 1989 when Vietnam removed the last of 140,000 troops from Cambodia.

Last July, in a shift of policy, James Baker, the Secretary of State, announced that America would open a dialogue with Vietnam about resolving the Cambodian conflict. In October, Nguyen Co Thach, the Vietnamese foreign minister, became the first senior Hanoi official to visit

Washington. This month, the Bush administration produced a "road map" detailing successive steps that Hanoi must take for Washington to restore relations and end the 15-year trade embargo that has hobbled the Vietnamese economy.

Basically, it wants Hanoi's co-operation in accounting for 2,276 Americans still missing from the war, and in ending the Cambodian civil war. The Vietnamese insist they are already co-operating fully on the personnel missing in action, a claim disputed in Washington, but they are reluctant to press Hun Sen, the Cambodian prime minister, to accept a United Nations peace plan they fear could be subverted by the Khmer Rouge.

Vietnam badly needs American economic help, and President Bush is also under pressure to put the war behind him and normalise relations.

The administration is being lobbied by American corporations, which see rivals moving into a potentially lucrative market as Hanoi dismantles its centrally planned economy. Last November, a bipartisan group of senior senators urged Mr Bush to lift the trade embargo, saying it had "outlived its usefulness".

At the same time a *Time* magazine poll suggested that Americans had put the war's psychological scars behind them. Forty-eight per cent favoured restored relations and nearly 70 per cent supported ending the trade embargo.

Washington takes another step to repair its policies in South-East Asia this weekend when Robert Kimmitt, under-secretary for political affairs, flies to Peking this weekend to discuss deteriorating relations with China. He will warn the

Peking leadership of growing congressional opposition to renewing China's preferential trading status this June.

Mr Bush resisted demands for tough sanctions against the Chinese after the Tiananmen Square mass killings in 1989, saying he wanted to preserve a dialogue, but except for Chinese acquiescence during the Gulf war that policy has yielded few results.

The president agreed this month to meet the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, at the White House despite Chinese objections, a sign that even his patience might be wearing thin. The Chinese foreign ministry said that any American attempt to link its preferential trading status with human rights issues would amount to interference in its internal affairs and would further jeopardise relations.

● **BANGKOK:** The Khmer Rouge, who ran the marxist regime which terrorised the Cambodian people during its years in power, agreed yesterday to a temporary ceasefire in the civil war now in its 13th year (Neil Kelly writes).

The two non-communist anti-government groups and the Vietnamese-backed administration in Phnom Penh had accepted the ceasefire proposal this week.

Officials of the non-communist resistance groups said Khmer Rouge leaders had accepted a truce because their guerrillas were under heavy pressure from government forces, although intelligence sources say fighting recently had been on a small scale. The resistance fighters say they are concentrating on rural political and economic work, not military operations.

Leading article, page 9

Brazilian children's champion missing

Belem - Volmer Nascimento, Brazil's defender of street children, has mysteriously disappeared in Rio de Janeiro, less than three hours after the Princess of Wales visited a street children's project in the centre of the city (Louise Byrne writes).

Senhor Nascimento, aged 39, who should have been under police protection after threats to his life, failed to turn up for a meeting with British journalists. He had left the headquarters of the National Movement of Street Children at midday, without police protection, to go to the bank, telling staff to keep his lunch hot because he would return in half an hour.

President Collor de Mello gave him police protection last year after thousands of letters from Amnesty International members called for his safety to be guaranteed. It is not yet clear why this protection was halted just a few days ago. The death threats had warned him to stop his protests against the killing of children forced to live on the streets.

The national movement says that 445 street children were killed last year in the city, the victims of extermination groups.

Nakasone back

Tokyo - The former Japanese prime minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone, emerged from political exile to rejoin the ruling Liberal Democratic Party at the age of 73. Mr Nakasone resigned from the LDP in May 1989, becoming an independent politician and formally taking responsibility for the Recruit bribery scandal.

Oil hits Riviera

Nice - Oil spills from the tanker Haven which sank off Italy two weeks ago have polluted some of the French Riviera's best-known beaches and are drifting further along the coast, officials said. Mayors of towns have been asked to step up surveillance and enlist firefighters to clean up beaches. (Reuters)

Birth vigilante

Peking - A Chinese farmer, Qi Yongxin, has been sentenced to death for murdering Yu Zuqiang, who told authorities that he was trying to have a fourth child, thereby violating birth control policies, the official *Farmer's Daily* said. Qi also crippled Yu's three-year-old son. (Reuters)

Siege broken

Colebo - Sri Lankan troops have ended a month-long siege by separatist Tamil rebels of an island naval base, killing 26 guerrillas, military sources said. Six soldiers were killed and 20 wounded in the battle for Karainagar naval base on Karaitivu, the sources said. (Reuters)

Settling down

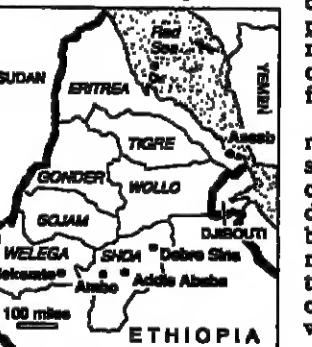
Peterborough, Ontario - A Briton, Christopher Jackson, who has entered Canada illegally five times, finally got his wish to stay in the country when a judge ordered him to spend the next two years in prison. His lawyer said he had now married a Canadian and was probably now eligible for citizenship. (AP)

Mengistu sacks closest advisers

By ANDREW LYCETT

BOWING to popular pressure in the face of military reverses, President Mengistu of Ethiopia yesterday attempted to put a different face on his government by appointing Tesfaye Dinka, his civilian foreign minister, as prime minister and by sacking his cabinet, including the hardliners.

On Monday, the Ethiopian parliament called for a ceasefire by all parties in the country's civil war and the setting-up of a government of national unity. On Wednesday, the rebel Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Demo-



cratic Front (EPRDF), fighting to overthrow President Mengistu, responded by taking the key garrison town of Ambo, just 65 miles west of the capital, Addis Ababa, and the site of one of the government's largest armament factories. The United States has now ordered all non-essential embassy staff to leave.

Mr Tesfaye, who impressed observers with his skilful handling of Ethiopia's foreign affairs, is charged with assembling "a new cabinet of quali-

fied and acceptable individuals" and with extending its ethnic base to reflect Ethiopia's diverse ethnic groups.

A government spokesman said the change was "a kind of restructuring, a streamlining of the administration". He emphasised that President Mengistu remained in overall executive control.

Following its emergency session, the one-party parliament voted unanimously to establish a dialogue with opposition parties and to form a transitional government charged with seeking a lasting peace. But it also called for the mass mobilisation of all men over the age of 18 to stop further rebel advances.

Asefa Mamo, the British representative of the EPRDF, said: "We are ready to have a ceasefire without preconditions. But there has never been such a call. The government has called for a transitional government with forces of unity but we're not sure what it means by that."

Yemane Gebre Meskel, European spokesman for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), making gains in the north in its fight for Eritrean independence, said: "Mengistu is just doing this for the sake of appearances. The main emphasis is again on military mobilisation. The parliament has called for a government of national unity. But it is excluding opposition groups by saying it will only talk with those who accept Ethiopia's territorial integrity."

that the editors had taken leave of their senses.

First it splashed on its front page a replay of all the most salacious allegations about Nancy Reagan made by Kitty Kelley, the unauthorised biographer whose veracity has been widely challenged. Then last week, the paper broke its own rules and named the woman who claims she was raped by William Kennedy Smith at the Kennedy mansion in Palm Beach, complete with a profile laden with anonymous anecdotes and the account of a barman who tried to seduce her. To the outrage of its critics, it appeared that *The New York Times* was resorting to the old argument that the woman had asked for it.

Putting aside the gravity of the rape case, the result

Republics denounce Kremlin for 'third world war' at Chernobyl

Robert Seely reports from Kiev on the remembrance rallies, vigils and mock trials focusing on the victims and the culprits of the nuclear disaster

THE Ukrainian and Belorussian republics commemorated the fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident yesterday with demonstrations of the Soviet central authorities, calls for independence, and mock trials.

Volodymyr Yavorivsky, the chairman of the Ukraine's parliamentary Chernobyl enquiry committee, compared the environmental damage in the republic to the effects of a third world war.

Mr Yavorivsky, whose full report on the disaster is expected next month, told the communist-dominated supreme soviet: "I would like the world to know that the scale of the Chernobyl disaster is such that we have every reason to say that Ukraine was the place of a third world war. What was science fiction yesterday is reality today. It is our reality and even our children realise this."

Elsewhere in the Soviet Union, remembrance rallies were held. In Belorussia's capital, Minsk, the pro-independence Popular Front said that more than 10,000 people attended a vigil while there were peaceful demonstrations in many other cities throughout the republic.

In the Ukrainian town of Slavutych, where many of the evacuees from Chernobyl were rehoused, crowds gathered to pay tribute to Chernobyl's victims. Thousands of people were expected to attend an open-air church service in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, yesterday evening. A concert in the city in the early hours of yesterday was poorly attended, however, with fewer than 2,000 people staying to mark the moment of the explosion.

The demonstrations and condemnations followed President Gorbachev's announcement calling for scientific and financial aid to be sent to the Soviet Union "in the interests of the whole of humanity".

The president's address, released Thursday night from Moscow, thanked the countries and organisations that had helped with the relief programme and appealed for further aid.

Mr Gorbachev said: "I appeal to the governments of all countries, to international, national, and public organisations and to all people of

goodwill with a proposal that they should take part intellectually and financially in the implementation of the international programme, which is being carried out under the supervision of the World Health Organisation.

"The result of the implementation of this programme will be used in the interests of the whole of humanity. The USSR will provide it with all necessary moral and material support. The future of this programme will to a significant degree depend on international co-operation."

Committee chairman Mr Yavorivsky said: "I will not put the finger on specific faces today but I must say that the impression is depressing, depressing because the officials were absolutely incompetent, absolutely irresponsible."

Scientists in the republic are still unclear as to the true numbers of the disaster's victims, partly because of the

diagnostic procedures adopted by the Soviet authorities after the accident.

Quoting from a document issued one month after the explosion, Mr Yavorivsky said: "In mid-May there was another instruction to the then Ukrainian health minister, Anatoly Romanenko, ordering that cases where radiation sickness was not officially registered should be diagnosed as heart disease. Thousands of people who are not with us any more passed away with this diagnosis."

"The minister did not even think of what was happening. He is still quite cheerfully arrogant when he comes to our committee."

Mr Yavorivsky, who claims that he was approached by Leonid Kravchuk, president of the republic, and asked to temporarily withhold names of those responsible for the accident, argued that the disaster would not have happened if the Ukraine had been independent.

He told parliament: "The disaster, in my opinion, would not have happened if the Ukraine had been a sovereign nation. Had our own government and our own parliament controlled what was happening there I am convinced that this disaster would not have happened."

Holding up disturbing pictures painted by evacuee children, many of whom lived in the towns of Prypiat and Chernobyl within the 19-mile exclusion zone, Mr Yavorivsky said: "See what they paint. A woman embodying death taking children by the hand and leading them through Prypiat."

"Look how they see Chernobyl. The best painter would not have the imagination to draw these. Here is a black paw scraping houses off the ground. These are our children's paintings; this is how they see their future. I am showing you this because today, facing the fifth year of Chernobyl, we should have the courage to say things that we have not said before."

Elsewhere in Kiev, people involved with the accident and those affected by it began giving three days of testimony about their experiences while a 24-hour "telemarathon" for charity was broadcast on television.

The *NYT* even came in for condemnation from the presenters of *Current Affair*, a daily "tabloid" television programme that drew a huge audience on Wednesday with the highest jinks so far to emerge from the Kennedy case.

Its reporter, Steve Dunleavy, an Australian with strong tabloid credentials, confronted Jennifer

Cassone, the "other woman" at the Kennedy mansion, with pornographic pictures of herself in scenes replayed on other networks, she then set on Mr Dunleavy, kicking, punching and biting.

Miss Cassone, who worked at the bar of the Palm Beach night club frequented by the Kennedys, has enjoyed three weeks of notoriety, charging 1,000 dollars per television appearance.

The *NYT* was attacked by an array of public entities, from Mayor David Dinkins to the National Organisation of Women and even by Senator Kennedy himself. But the newspaper has stuck to its argument that it was justified in naming the alleged victim because her name had already been mentioned by NBC News. NBC

Cricket breaks Soweto barriers

FROM GAVIN BELL IN SOWETO

ON A rare patch of green field amid the dusty streets and matchbox houses of Soweto, the noise of protest and factional fighting has given way to the more reassuring thud of leather on willow.

Until recently, the sight of township urdians joyously outplaying white public schoolboys at cricket would have been regarded as improbable on the one side, and sacrilege on the other. It is now a regular occurrence.

Thanks to an innovative project by Ali Bacher, of the South African Cricket Union, with help from British taxpayers and a Worcester supplier of cricket equipment.

Five years after tentative efforts were made to introduce cricket to black communities, Soweto has more than 3,000 players competing in multi-racial school leagues. Their ultimate aspiration to play against England and the West Indies received an important boost this week with the amalgamation of the mainly white cricket union and the Coloured and Indian cricket board, pressuring South Africa's return to international competition.

At the same time, Sir Robin Renwick, the British ambassador, contributed bats worth £5,000 to the township project. A further £20,000 is pledged to secure equipment from the Worcester supplier.

Imtiaz Patel, the director of the scheme, says: "The kids took to the game in a way we never imagined. There is so much enthusiasm and talent, we can't cope. We still need a lot of help, but this gift from Britain will go a long way to meeting our immediate needs."

Local sponsorship has provided Soweto with its first cricket field. Manicured turf being expensive to maintain, the youngsters make do with concrete pitches covered with carpet, but their skills at the practice nets are startling.

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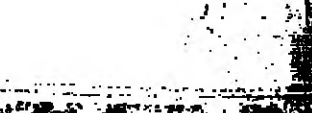
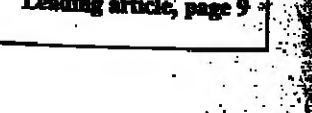
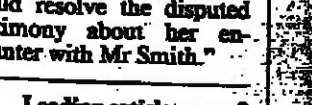
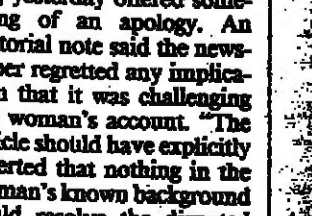
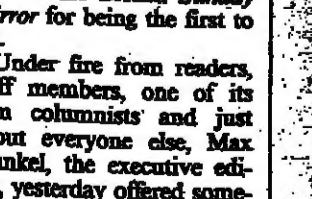
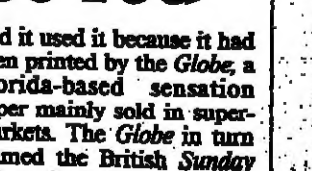
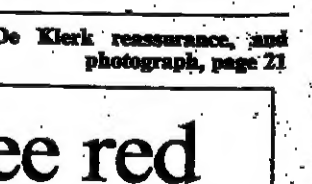
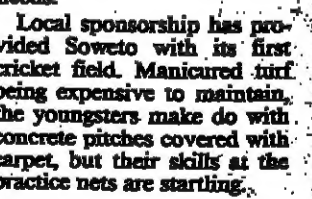
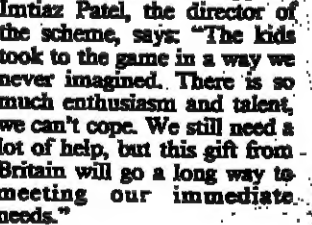
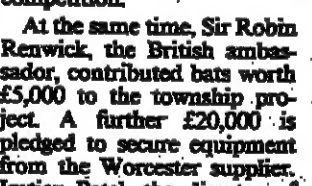
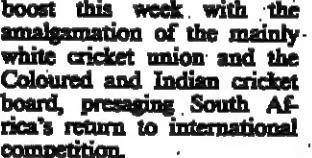
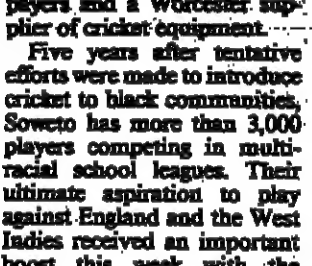
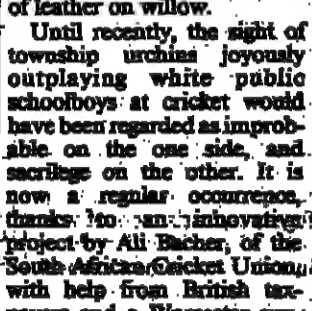
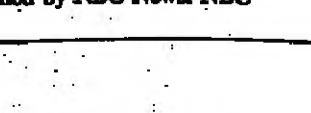
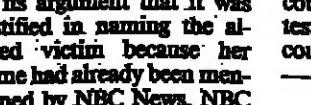
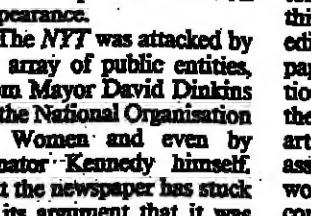
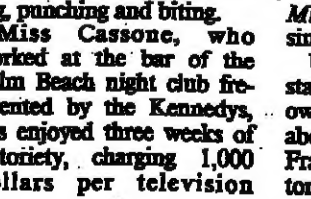
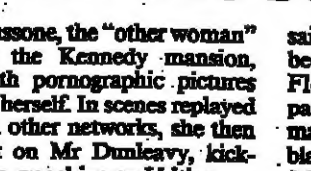
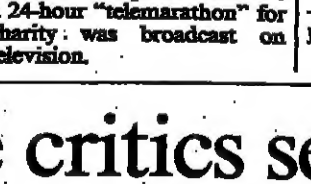
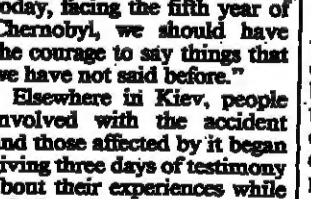
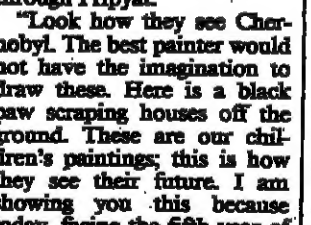
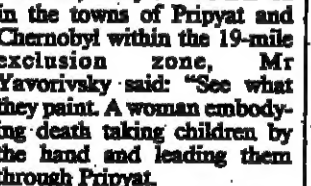
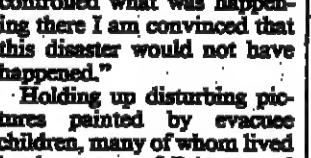
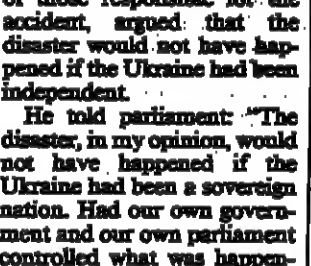
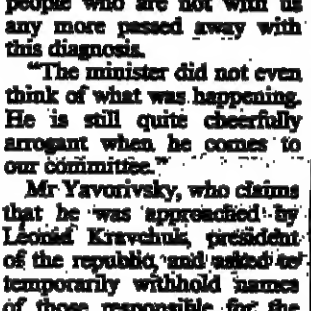
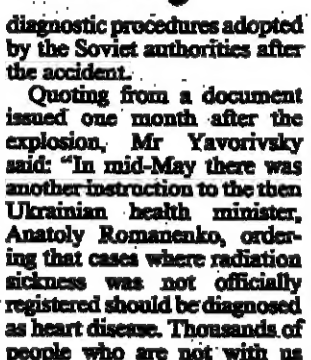
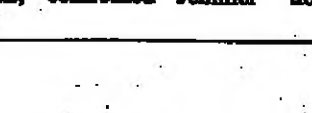
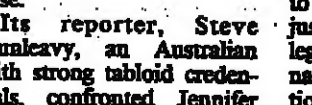
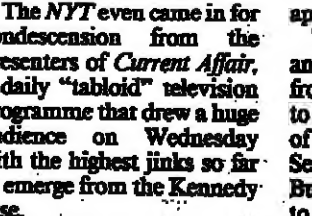
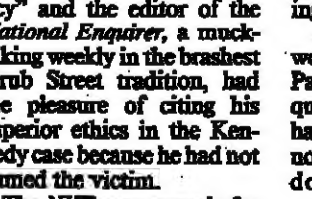
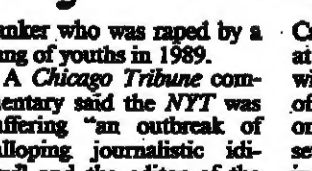
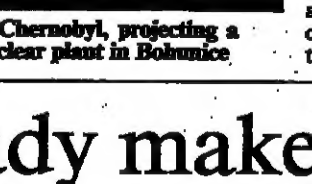
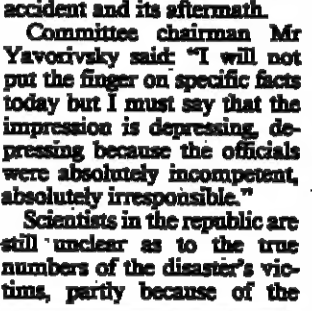
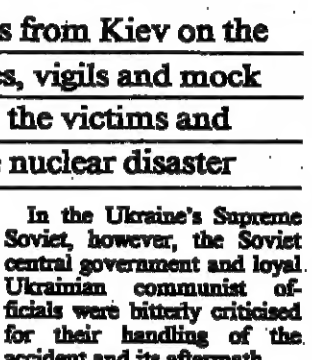
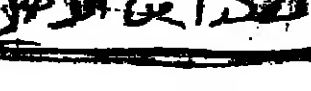
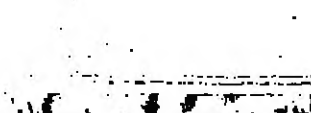
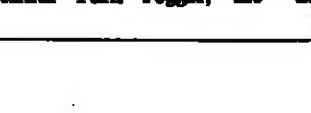
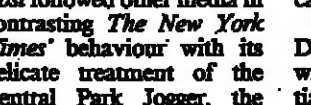
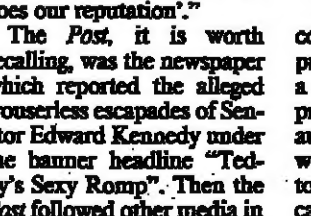
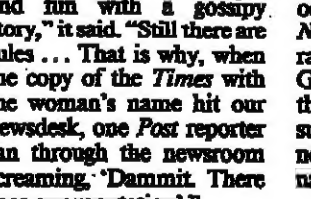
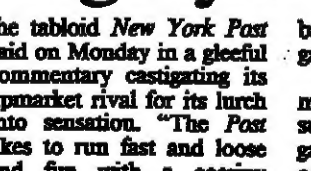
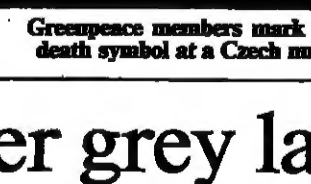
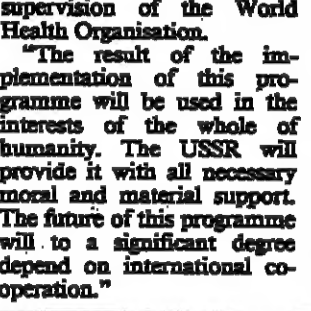
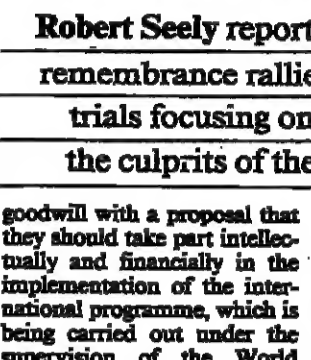
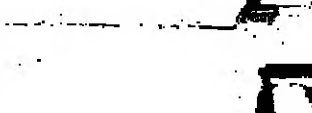
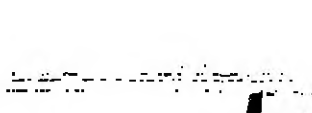
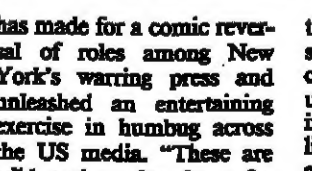
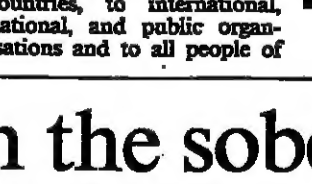
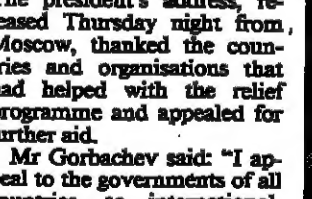
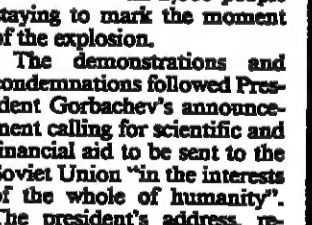
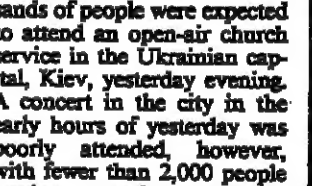
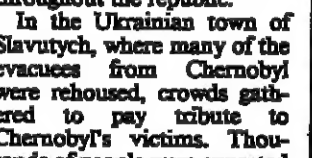
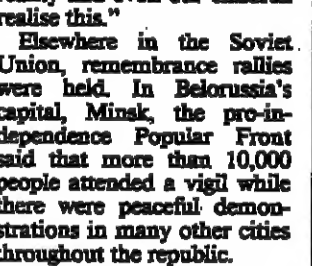
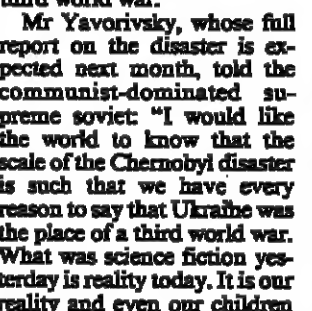
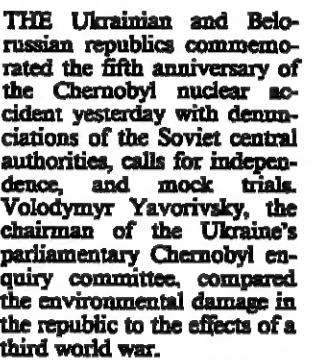
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Roses and yoghurt welcome marines as Iraqis leave town

SPORTING a bizarre combination of automatic rifles, machineguns and roses from overjoyed Kurds, British Royal Marine commandos yesterday began patrolling the dusty streets of Zakho in a show of strength designed to attract hundreds of thousands of refugees down from the snow-capped mountains.

Showered with gifts of yoghurt and tea from the terrified residents, the marines made it clear that no armed Iraqis, beyond the 50 police with side-arms permitted under an allied-Iraqi agreement, would be tolerated in the town after the deadline to leave expires at 6.00 am today.

The marines were inundated with information about alleged Iraqi secret policemen who had donned plain-clothes in order to

stay on. This will have to be sifted by intelligence officers in an operation as complex as that the marines recently left in the rolling hills of south Armagh.

"If the Iraqis are not on the list of police identified and permitted to carry arms, they will be asked to hand over their weapons," explained Lt Col Graham Kerr, deputy commander of the Third Commando Brigade. "It will be an instruction that they will be unable to refuse."

In a climb-down symptomatic of Baghdad's new attempts to avoid confrontation, most of the uniformed and armed "police" had left by breakfast time yesterday, almost 24 hours before the expiry of the ultimatum issued at the United Nations.

Kurdish residents, although

Christopher Walker reports from Zakho on the joy of the Kurdish townspeople as at last they begin to feel safe from the attentions of the Iraqi security police while British troops patrol the streets

welcoming the marines — some burst into tears when they saw them patrolling in impressive style down Ibrahim Kalil street, still littered with bullets from clashes between guerrillas and the Iraqis — were angered at the last-minute agreement to let the 50 Iraqi police remain.

"The refugees in the mountains will not be happy to come down until all the Iraqis have gone. Why allow them to leave so many behind?" asked Mr Ali Sulevani, a Kurdish history teacher. "We would like the British to stay on our streets

forever. Today is the first day that I have felt safe." As he spoke, groups of Kurds moved out into the sunshine from the houses where they had remained in fear of the Iraqi police, who had dominated the near-empty town for five tense days.

The marines soon began to relax and respond to the infectious enthusiasm of the Kurds. Many American journalists praised their professionalism, in comparison with the more nervous US marines, who have rarely ventured out in Iraq on foot.

"You soon realise that the people are a lot friendlier than in Northern Ireland," explained Ian Doyle, aged 24 from Liverpool, as his seven-man patrol made its way past the Kurdish-owned Baghdad Hotel, ransacked by the departed Iraqi police who had used it as a squalid billet.

It was clear that the departure of the secret police has been hasty. Many had left bedding, clothing and half-eaten meals behind. "The ultimatum showed that the allies meant business, it was vital," said one marine, who agreed that Americans on the

ground have been reluctant to become too involved. "Patrolling the streets was too political for the Yanks; that's why they gave it to us to do," said a marine.

Zakho was teeming with rumours of revenge attacks against Iraqis by Kurds and more violence is expected as the peshmarga attempt to come down from the mountains to deal rough justice to Iraqi agents they suspect. "We have seen many. We are Aryans, we are light-skinned and the Iraqis are black, they are Arabs. That is why it is easy for us to spot them," said Mr Sulevani, the history teacher. "We also look under their arms because that is where they now keep their guns."

In explanation of the deep suspicion felt by the Kurds, Mr

Sulevani showed me houses in Ibrahim Khalil street, which had been looted by the Iraqi police. Women described how everything of value had been seized and the wanton damage was visible everywhere, reminiscent of the wreckage Iraqi soldiers left when they fled Kuwait City.

The wrecked interiors of once proud homes left empty and locked by Kurds when they fled was testimony to the distrust voiced everywhere in Zakho about the provisional agreement on Kurdish autonomy reached in Baghdad by Mr Jalal Talabani.

"We want autonomy of course," said Mr Sulevani, "but we want it under British and American supervision. Who else will protect us from the Iraqi killers?"

Arrival of US aid plane in Iran raises hopes of thaw

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL NIXON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AN AMERICAN air force C141 transport plane will today become the first US government aircraft to land openly in Iran since the Shah was toppled in 1979 and Islamic fundamentalists seized more than 50 hostages from Washington's embassy in Tehran.

The plane, the first of several, will deliver 145,000lb of blankets for Kurdish refugees on the Iranian-Iraqi border, but it also carries the

hopes of an end to the long-standing enmity between America and Iran. "This is very significant," said Jim Phillips, a Middle East analyst at the right-wing Heritage Foundation. "For them to permit American overflights is a symbolic step."

President Bush publicly insists normal relations must await Iran's help in securing the release of Western hostages in Lebanon and its renunciation of international terrorism, but there is little doubt that, for whatever reasons, the two countries are moving gradually closer.

Iran's interest in American and Western aid to rebuild its economy and that, in the eyes of President Rafsanjani and fellow moderates, takes precedence over exporting the Islamic revolution. Its conspicuous restraint during the Gulf war won warm praise from James Baker, the American Secretary of State, and recognition that Iran had a role to play in future Gulf security arrangements.

Iran refrained from declaring the conflict a holy war and siding with Iraq. It imposed a six-week peace initiative in the Middle East yesterday when he reported to President Bush that he had made progress and there was room for optimism.

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It was not clear what progress Mr Baker made yesterday, but he has gained some minor concessions from the Israeli side, and has also won a promise of Moscow's full participation as a co-sponsor in regional peace talks.

Although the Arab states neighbouring Israel have shown little flexibility, none has ruled out its participation in the forum. The Soviet role in particular may prove decisive, and the Soviet foreign minister, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, is due to tour the Middle East next month. Moscow may also be in a position to persuade Syria to offer



Sea dogged: a patrol boat dispersing demonstrators in rubber dinghies, who were protesting against Japan's deployment of minesweepers to the Gulf from Yokosuka naval base yesterday. It was the navy's first foreign mission since the second world war and demonstrators nationally said the move was a violation of the constitution

Middle East peace shuttle leaves Baker optimistic

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, raised hopes of a possible breakthrough in his six-week peace initiative in the Middle East yesterday when he reported to President Bush that he had made progress and there was room for optimism.

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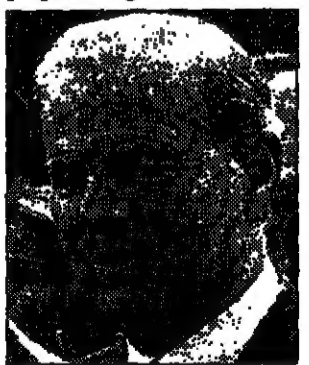
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more concessions. Mr Baker will report to President Bush in detail on the outcome of this, his third round of shuttle diplomacy since the end of the Gulf war.

"There are still some things we have to reach agreement on, and we will be continuing (the process)," the secretary of state said after meeting the Israeli foreign minister, David Levy, and clinching five agreements with the Israeli side on the proposed structure of a peace conference.

The main achievement was Mr Baker's success in persuading Israel to lift its objections to EC participation in the talks. He also won Israel's approval for Soviet participation, on condition that the Kremlin agrees to restore full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

In return, Israel has received US assurances that the proposed regional conference



Baker during his visit to Jerusalem yesterday

would have no binding powers to reach or enforce decisions.

However, these areas of agreement appear to be eclipsed by the very real obstacles still left to tackle, in particular Israel's refusal to allow a UN role in the conference, and its disagreement over who should represent Palestinian interests at the negotiating table.

Mr Baker's modest successes nonetheless drew condemnation from members of the right-wing Israeli coalition government, who fear that Mr Shamir, in spite of his right-wing ideology may be drawn into giving away some of the Arab lands occupied by Israel after the 1967 six-day war.

In particular, Mr Arens was reported yesterday to have objected to the proposed peace talks lasting longer than one opening session, and apparently voiced concern that Israel could be led into a full international conference which could impose unacceptable conditions.

The deputy minister of science, Genia Cohen, who belongs to the extremist Tehiya party, a junior member of the coalition, warned Mr Shamir that he risked making the same mistake by accepting to negotiate as the Jews who died in the Holocaust had made. "It's not a shower, it's a trap," she said, comparing the peace conference with the German gas chambers.

Kurd rebel leader says deal yet to be reached

By ADAM KELLNER IN BAGHDAD AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

KEY obstacles still stand in the way of an agreement on Kurdish autonomy, Jalal Talabani, the rebel leader who had led a Kurdish delegation to talks with President Saddam Hussein, said yesterday.

"There has been no agreement yet, only the start of negotiations," he said in the north Iraqi city of Shaqlawa. His statement was dismissed in Baghdad, where some Iraqis preferred to hold him to his earlier declaration this week that there was an agreement in principle.

Mr Talabani, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, who was negotiating on behalf of eight groups to which his party belongs, said the Kurds and the government will meet again next week.

"The real negotiations will begin then, when we start discussing each side's concepts of autonomy," he said.

While Baghdad had indicated readiness to meet Kurdish demands for "autonomy and a democratic society", Mr Talabani said the obstacles involved the size of the territory that would be autonomous, the extent of self-rule and the region's relations with the rest of the world. Disputes over territory and the extent of independence undermined the 1970 autonomy agreement.

Iraqis who, asked not to be identified said that until now there had been no official Iraqi declaration on the talks, except for a statement that Saddam had met the Kurdish

delegation this week. Baghdad left it to Mr Talabani to make the statement on Wednesday that the talks had yielded an agreement in principle and details would be hammered out in discussions next week.

A leader of Shia Muslim rebels in southern Iraq said Saddam could not be trusted, but he agreed that talks should be pursued. Yesterday, Talabani admitted that the Kurds still have reservations about trusting Saddam due to the failure of earlier agreements.

He said their decision to talk to Saddam was prompted partly by a lack of international support for their cause. "We are alone," he said. "We have no friends." (Adam Kellner's report was subject to Iraqi censorship.)

Saudis offer refuge

Nicosia — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia yesterday relieved Washington and the United Nations of a big problem by offering to take in 50,000 Iraqi refugees and prisoners of war, too terrified of Saddam Hussein to return home (Michael Theodorou writes).

The kingdom said it would spend \$30 million (£18 million) on expanding an existing camp in Rafha on its northern border with Iraq. Within two weeks, it will be ready to take 8,000 refugees, the Saudi Press Agency said.

US Air Force planes will start tomorrow to ferry them to Saudi Arabia at the rate of 300 to 400 a day from an American-run army camp near the southern Iraqi town of Safwan. Thirty thousand civilians, Shia rebels and Iraqi army deserters who fled to a zone in southern Iraq occupied by American troops form the majority of those seeking refuge.

Restoring lines

Nicosia — President Saddam Hussein has appointed Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, his son-in-law and defence minister, to restore Iraq's telephone services, destroyed in the Gulf war, the Iraqi News Agency said. Telephone and telefax lines have been cut since the day the war started. (Reuters)

Facing a ban

ABU DHABI — Saudi Arabia has banned entry to Gulf women whose faces are covered with traditional Muslim veils in their passport photographs, the United Arab Emirates news agency WAM reported. It said that the photographs must show uncovered faces. (AFP)

Another quiet day at the border and a baby dies

FROM TIM DEAGLE IN PIRANSHAHR

TWO little boys sat on the ground outside the tent at Piranshahr border crossing, Iran, crying uncontrollably. A strong wind whipped down off the mountains pulling at the guy-ropes and scattering the small crowd in clouds of dust as they listened to the desperate cries and sobs of the woman inside.

An Iranian conscript tried to put his arm around the youngest boy's shoulders to comfort him, but the child recoiled from the man with the gun in obvious fear. The mother finally emerged from the tent, her body shaking violently, her face streaked with tears, her eyes wide clutching a small bundle of cloth to her chest.

The woman, by now mad with grief, her eyes blackened by her own fists, sat in the grass and watched her husband dig a grave for the

bundle which contained her dead child. Her two sons sat next to her and wept. The eldest daughter held the tiny body close to her, sobbing. A French doctor put his arms round her, to comfort her.

Finally the small grave was ready and the father gently lifted the body from his daughter's reluctant arms. The material covering the body fell away and the child's head and arms flopped down, its eyes wide open, hanging limp in the man's hands.

As the father began to shovel the dirt on to the body, his distraught wife kept up, stood at the foot of the grave and began to sing wildly, her skirts and cloak billowing in the strong wind. A small crowd of soldiers and family looked on embarrassed, not sure what to do or say.

The French doctor walked away. "Well, I suppose there's

nothing left for me to do, is there?" His tone was bitter.

Thousands of Kurds continue to arrive at the scores of mountainous border crossings into Iran and they continue to die, assailed by the most preventable of diseases. It is always the very old and the very young who are dying on the border, mainly from dehydration. The toll is said to be running at 2,000 a day.

And with little or none of the foreign aid arriving yet, and cases of amoebic dysentery reaching epidemic levels, the handful of doctors here say there is nothing to prevent the deaths of countless more.

"They don't need a thousand tons of bloody flour!" the Kurdish doctor exploded, his anger and frustration filling the hotel restaurant crowded with press and relief workers. "They need sugar and salt solution and antibiotics and

they need them today not next week, for God's sake. This is the critical period for these people and if supplies don't arrive very soon, there will be a lot fewer Kurds to save."

Three weeks after the Kurds began pouring out of Iraq, this column of refugees stretches at least 10 kilometres back into a country they are desperate to leave. It is a jumbled mass of stationary trucks, cars, taxis and tractors piled high with blankets, mattresses, furniture: whatever they could fit in and of course thousands upon thousands of dusty, tired, frightened but ever hopeful people.

The border is open, during daylight hours, and the Iranian soldiers are processing about 50 refugees an hour at this border post, but it doesn't even make a small dent in the ever increasing number waiting on the other side of the

rustled barbed wire.

One of the two doctors in the Zivah camp says that typhoid has already arrived and that without drugs he expects an epidemic. "We only have drugs for two more days, after that I don't know. I am not expecting a shipment."

"The Iranians give us some drugs, but they're from the Iran/Iraq war and they are all out of date. So we buy what we can from the bazaar, but we haven't got much money left."

Between them, the doctors are treating up to 700 patients every day. As we walked to our car and away from the sad little family clustered around the tiny grave at Piranshahr, the French doctor grabbed my arm. "You have to realise, today it's very quiet," he said with urgency. "Usually it's much worse. Yes, it's been a very quiet day."

BRADFORD & BINGLEY'S INVESTMENT RATES FROM 25TH APRIL 1991.

Scheme	Gross % P.A.	Net Equiv. % P.A.
Ordinary Account	5.00	4.50
Deposit Account	5.33	4.00
Flexible Savings Account (including full bonus)	7.33	5.50
TIMESAVER Account (£1 - £249)	6.00	4.50
(£250 - £999)	7.33	5.50
(£1,000 plus)	8.67	6.50
S.A.Y.E. (7 year equivalent return)	11.49**	8.62
MAXIMISER Bonus Account		
£1,000 - £9,999 (including full bonus)	11.00	8.25
£10,000 plus (including full bonus)	12.00	9.00
MAXIMISER Option 1 (Income)	10.75	8.06
	10.25	7.69
MAXIMISER Option 3 (Income)	11.45	8.59
	10.90	8.18
MAXIMISER Option 6 (Income)	12.50	9.38
	11.85	8.89
MAXIMISER Tax Plan Account	11.45	8.59
MAXIMISER High-Return TESSA†	14.00	—
MAXIMISER Optimum TESSA†	13.00	—
MAXIMISER Classic TESSA†	11.00	—

Interest rates are variable. **Gross equivalent rate. (Includes 1% gross p.a. bonus. Net equivalent assumes the current basic rate of income tax of 25%. Interest will be payable net of the basic rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or subject to the required registration, gross. The actual net amount receivable by an investor who has not registered for gross income will depend upon the basic rate of income tax in force at the time interest is credited.

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Ignore the experts: ask the girl at the check-out

Economists may soon usurp the position of used-car salesmen in the rogues' gallery of public mistrust. Contradictory accounts come almost daily about the chances of an economic recovery, the prospects for interest rates, the behaviour of the pound and the state of business in the factories and the high street.

In the papers, industrial reports shriek of new records for bankruptcies and job losses, while the financial pages chorale about the stockmarket's new highs. The chancellor and his Treasury knights keep offering irrefragable statistical proof that the recession is almost over; then a staunchly Tory business organisation announces another survey showing conclusively that the worst of the recession is still to come.

What is it about economists and businessmen that makes them incapable of agreeing on anything or giving a straight answer? And

what should the public make of the confusion about the economy's performance and prospects? The second question is obviously the more important and will become ever more urgent. But to guess where the economy may really be going, it helps to understand why guidance from the experts will continue to be unreliable in the months ahead. There are three broad reasons.

First, statistics are inaccurate and subject to large revisions. The statisticians are the most easily blamed, but unjustly. If the official statistics underestimated inflationary pressures in 1987 and 1988, for example, and then exaggerated inflation last year, it was not because of miscalculations or faulty sampling in the retail prices index; it was because the RPI has a misleading bias, using interest rates, instead of house prices, to measure housing inflation.

It is in the interpretation of

Surveys and statistics cannot tell us when the economy will recover, says Anatole Kaletsky. It's up to the shopper

Recession fears put pressure on pound

Yesterday's conflicting headlines: from the *Financial Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Times*

statistics that the real trouble arises. Political bias and personal self-interest are obvious corruptors of economic judgement, particularly at a time like this. However foul the statistics, the chancellor is likely to sprinkle them with rose-water: "If it's not hurting, it's not

Major gets economic battering

working" was a fine slogan, but it does not have a pre-election ring.

Businessmen are notoriously inclined to optimism about their own companies' prospects, since anything else sounds like an admission of incompetence. But when they are asked to assess

The worst is over, says Major

general economic conditions, they are pulled in several directions. They want to encourage optimism among their customers and help the Conservatives, but they also want lower interest rates and cautious unions. These biases probably neutralise one another in

the raw statistics, but when it comes to interpretation, the clashing motives can become all too obvious, as shown by the abrupt shifts of mood recently in the Institute of Directors and CBI.

The judgments of the financial markets are less personal, but more volatile and obscure. Suffice it to say that share prices suffered their biggest fall for 50 years in October 1987, just before the greatest economic boom in a generation. They began to recover steadily as business slowed, interest rates rose and inflation worsened, hitting a peak last summer, just before the economy collapsed. Financial markets appear to be influenced largely by long-term expectations and an indefinable spirit of the times. This leads to the last and most important explanation of the present economic uncertainty.

Consumer confidence — quite simply, people's willingness to spend money — is by far the most

important factor in any economic recovery. Unfortunately, consumer behaviour has never been more difficult to predict than it is today. Debt levels are unprecedentedly high. House prices, which have a far greater impact on the stockmarket than on consumer confidence, are still in the doldrums. Most important, the signs are legion that the nation no longer feels financially reckless and ostentatious.

The recession will obviously end at some time, but when depends upon psychology, not economics simply, when will consumers and housebuyers start spending? For all their computer models, this is a question the economists cannot answer. The average *Times* reader, after a moment's introspection, may have a better idea. So when will the recession end? The old huckster's cliché is literally true: You pay your money and you take your choice.

Clifford Longley

Flight from the mosque

At the height of the Rushdie affair, and later as the Gulf war reached its climax, there was some apprehension in Britain about the size and strength of the British Muslim population. If they could be roused and organised, it was feared, a million or more angry Muslims would be a threat to domestic peace.

Virtually nothing happened, and not only because Saudi Arabia pulled hard on all its strings to the Muslim community here. Closer inspection suggests there never was such a threat: the Muslims are too disorganised and too divided. British society is causing far more trouble for Muslims in Britain than they could ever cause in return.

The Muslim "community" consists of many mutually antagonistic communities, with virtually no real leaders and no sense of common purpose. This is the conclusion of a piercingly frank study that has just been published by a Leicester imam, Mohammad Shabir Raza, who is director of the Islamic Centre there. They are losing their women. And nowhere does Mohammad Raza seem to see the slightest evidence of recovery — unless the existence of such an honest and critical survey is itself such a sign.

"Disunity is suicidal to the survival of Muslims in Western societies," he writes, having just outlined the many deep splits that divide British Muslims from one another. Pakistani and Indian Muslims, as well as dividing religiously (and bitterly) between the *Barelvi*, the *Deobandi* and various smaller sects, are also divided by survival of the Indian caste system, the *caste*, and by dynastic and neighbourhood loyalties, the *biradari*. Much energy is absorbed by these rivalries. As Mohammad Raza writes in *Islam in Britain* (Volcano Press, Leicester), "the veneer of Islamic culture is spread thin".

Leadership of these communities is variously distributed between what Mohammad Raza dismissively calls the "petrodollar" leaders (who "act as agents of sponsor countries to create an Islamic image of their sponsors"), the "professional" leaders (doctors and others who like to boost

their egos by being prominently in the public eye) and "traditional" religious leaders from the sub-continent: "In his own country [the imam] was a nobody and now is somebody."

Saudi Arabia, the leading petrodollar power in the Muslim world, has helped to fund about 800 of the 1,000 mosques in Britain, distributing as much as £50 million. In the Gulf war, says Mohammad Raza, they were told to damp down protests on behalf of Iraq and were given tracts supporting the Saudi view to hand out to their congregations.

In Mohammad Raza's view, "the leadership of the Muslim community has failed," and the mosques they control "have been turned into medieval sectarian fortresses". Meanwhile Muslim children are being educated in secular British schools with English as their first language and British culture in place of their own. British education emphasises independence of thought, and young Muslims are not impressed by the empty repetition of Islamic rituals and pieties by uneducated imams.

Low self-esteem and the loss of bonds to their parents' culture makes pressure to conform to Western ways almost irresistible. In surveys in 1989 and 1990, the Muslim Community Studies Institute of Leicester found that young women were torn between the values of Muslim culture and British values such as a woman's right to education, to a career, to choose her own husband and to determine her own life.

The imams do nothing to counteract the belief of many Muslim men that their assumption of superiority over women is endorsed by the Koran. "The concept of *izzat* [honour], the male domination and female submission syndrome, the female sexual distrust syndrome, the female as property — all are so deep rooted in the Muslim's patriarchal culture."

This picture of intense internal stress right across the Muslim population in Britain can only be changed if the best of the new generation of British-educated Muslims take over the leadership of their communities. But instead, many of them are drifting away.

The Fifties were not such fun as TV's darling buds suggest. Richard Morrison finds them rooted in a bleak prudery

Nostalgia is the cream bun of emotions. Indulging in it betrays a lack of moral fibre, is sickly-sweet even at the time, and has no beneficial effect on body or soul. We recreate the past, usually, to escape from our failure to control the present.

Yet that cannot be the whole reason. The moon, steadily-willed among us cannot stop the odd yearning for the good old days. Mrs Thatcher slew political dragons, but gushed about Victorian values. Orpheus vanquished the demons of hell, snatched back his woman, then could not resist looking back — just one peep, to see if the old girl was as he remembered — and lost her forever. If such giants of mythology succumb to nostalgia, what hope for us pygmies?

None whatsoever, judging by the television ratings. Tomorrow evening, about 17 million Britons, most of sound mind, will sit fascinated by a cream bun of lavish proportions: the fourth part of the serialisation of H.E. Bates's *The Darling Buds of May*. It is not the quality of acting or script that holds these viewers, though both are excellent. What lures the millions is the painstaking evocation of a carefree rural community where lovable rogues and benevolent squires, enormous matrons and tartish with hearts all live in benign equilibrium on a summer's day of "perfect weather" in the Home Counties. Willow strikes leather on the green, plans of Falastran cunning are hatched in the pub, and a ceaseless supply of beer and roasts sustains the energies of young lovers who run barefoot in the bluebell.

You recognise the 1950s, of course? The decade of Suez and McCarthy, bleak Samuel Beckett plays and Stockhausen's ghastly electronic music, grey architecture, rationing and tight-lipped prudishness. Probably not. H.E. Bates set his Larkin family stories in that decade, but he was drawing on a far stronger set of associations: an eternal mirage of times past, called Old England.

Where is Old England? It is where we want to live when we leaf through the advertisements in

Country Life, and spot the ideal thatched Cotswolds cottage that is just a couple of hundred thousand beyond our grasp. It is the place American tourists expect to reach on a coach trip to Stratford-upon-Avon. It is a jumble of half-remembered cultural fragments — Constable landscapes, Vaughan Williams music, Henry Fielding novels and Herrick's poetry — percolated, vulgarised and blended into an unofficial national dream.

The myth of Old England has been peddled for centuries. Bates's inspiration was to graft it onto the particular aura of 1950s Britain. That era exerts a peculiar fascination today, even for those too young to be nostalgic about it. In some ways it is utterly remote. Its modes of speech and dress, its expectations of public morality (or, if you like, hypocrisy), its social niceties: these seem closer to the Victorians than to us.

Yet the decade spawned much that shapes our culture even now. The Festival of Britain, the forthright universality of which falls next month, was post-war Britain's first great exercise in cultural paternalism; its repercussions have influenced public arts policy for decades.

Rock music was born in the 1950s, however much the Sixties triumphalists now running radio and television stations like to pretend otherwise. All British comedy lives in the surreal shadow of *The Goons*. Madonna lives, and prosper, in imitative homage to Monroe. The entertainment barons who took control of British commercial television found its outlet in the mid-Fifties established conventions of mass entertainment that have never been challenged. And the gruesomely materialist ethos of today's package holidays is still rooted in the cheery spirit of a Butlin's holiday camp, circa 1955. The 1950s was truly the decade of revolution for mass culture.

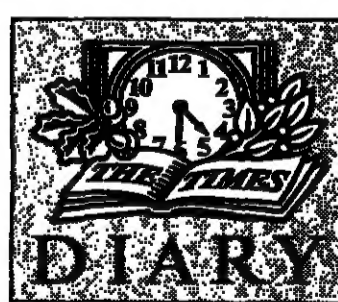
And with this new access to undemanding entertainment came impatience with authority figures and intellectuals. In America, Senator McCarthy roused the



When austerity ended: visitors to the 1951 Festival of Britain

blue-collar population to resentment of "twisted-thinking eggheads" — born with silver spoons in their mouths. Britain never went down that unfortunate road. And here is a description of Fifties life that positively drips with sexuality. That is remarkable, because the received wisdom is surely enshrined in Philip Larkin's famous lines:

Sexual intercourse began
In nineteen sixty-three
(Which was rather late for me)
Between the end of the
Chatterley ban
And the Beatles' first LP.



Come, listen to the band

Michael Heseltine's system of council tax banding has inaugurated a new genre of social stratification similar to that of London's socially superior 071 telephone numbers vis-à-vis 081. The question "What band are you, darling?" looks set to dominate the dinner tables of the up-and-coming.

Terence Morris, Professor of Social Institutions at the London School of Economics, foresees a subtle form of one-upmanship by those with a "G" on their tax form, denoting someone with a home worth more than £160,000. While boasting directly about the value of one's house is decidedly vulgar, dropping into conversation such phrases as "We're all Gs in our road, you know" will, he thinks, soon become acceptable.

"It will be just like the fuss over the London postcodes when they were introduced in the 1920s," says Morris. "It was good to have an SW1 address, but better still to have a W1. No one wanted an SE3. House bands are much better than talking about credit card limits, and estate agents will catch on very quickly. The house banding will soon become the first thing spelt out at the top of their brochures."

Morris says market research companies will also take a close interest in the bandings in order to target social groups more accurately for unsolicited mailshots.

But not all are excited at the new marketing opportunities. John Bowls, Tory MP for Battersea, Wandsworth, where the property business has been riding the recession on the back of the borough's claim to be Britain's only poll tax free zone, says: "Our estate agents preface the idea of being zero banded. But there will be so little difference in the bands here that we will be able to boast that we are not

only a classless society but a bandless one as well."

Striking another dissenting note, Jane Procter, the editor of *Tatler*, says that to own an expensive house today may not be as attractive as it was before the recession. "There was a time in the 1980s when you couldn't go to a dinner party without the conversation being dominated by this sort of thing. But I am not sure banding will catch on in the same way. *Tatler* readers may even prefer a lower band. It will mean they won't have to spend so much money, and in the 1990s that is likely to prove much more important."

Boning up

Old primates never die; they just sail off into the sunset. Next week Lord Runcie, accompanied by his wife Rosalind, leaves on a study cruise to Rhodes, Corfu and Athens, delivering five lectures en route and answering questions from his 240 fellow passengers. Organised by Swan Hellenic, it is billed as "The Cult of Asclepius, a medical history cruise". Runcie regularly sang for his supper in this way before his elevation to Canterbury in 1980.

The former archbishop thinks his Greek history and mythology may have got a little rusty in the intervening years and has been sweating up with books borrowed from his son James, who works on

the BBC's *The Late Show*. "He is worried that the passenger list will contain a brilliant classical scholar who has been saving for 30 years for the cruise and knows more about the subject than he does," says Runcie junior. "He says that a scholar in his audience poised to ask the lethal question. The crumpled suit gives him away."

Red chequered flag

Politburo members cruising along Moscow's broad boulevards in their Zils should get used to life in the fast lane. Nigel Mansell may be on his way. Next month a group of Scottish



businessmen fly in to put what they hope will be the finishing touches to a deal that would take international motor racing to Russia for the first time.

The proposed races, which would start in 1993, are modelled on Monte Carlo and Birmingham. "The roads in Moscow are so wide it would be the safest road race in the world," says Eric Houston, who runs the Knockhill racing circuit near Dunfermline. The circuit would take cars through the centre of Red Square and around the Kremlin at more than 100mph. President Gorbachev would be invited to fire the starting gun — if he has not been fired by then.

Owen's turn

Despite protestations that he would never become a Tory, David Owen has agreed to address a meeting of the Conservative Philosophy Group next month. "As far as I know it is the first time he has ever attended an all-Conservative gathering," says Jonathan Aitken, the MP for Thanet South who founded the discussion group 15 years ago. Aitken expects a high turnout for the meeting, which will host at his home in Lord North Street, near the Commons.

Among those invited are Mrs Thatcher, Norman Lamont and Enoch Powell. But they should not be too optimistic about converting the former foreign secretary. He has taken as his text a remark of Disraeli's: "Stick to your principles, damn your party."

Garden of Eden

Hearing that Channel 4's *Dig* would not be broadcast last night, an angry gardener rang the station to protest on behalf of the Royal Horticultural Society. "But we had no choice," said a spokesman. "The programme included considerable numbers of exposed male genitals which rendered it unsuitable for transmission." "What has that got to do with a gardening programme?" asked the caller. Only then did the penny drop. The film that had attracted the attention of the censor was *Dick*, a controversial work deemed too risqué even for Channel 4's banned season.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

For seven years after taking my seat in the Commons I was baffled by my failure to be promoted. All around I saw friends of modest ability and uncertain virtue clambering up the ladder held out to them by the chief whip. At first my congratulations were unclouded by jealousy. "Well done," one would exclaim to a colleague who was not notably less stupid than oneself. At first I meant it.

But soon a pattern emerged in the promotions. There were three categories: colleagues who got jobs, those who would never get jobs, and those who would shortly be given jobs. This last came to contain (as it seemed to my fevered imagination) only two MPs: Chris Patten and me. And then there was one. I waited for the call. It never came. Mrs Thatcher would look at me in the tearoom with her head tilted slightly to one side and an expression that said: "There's something not quite right about that boy." What had the whips been telling her?

I have just guessed. It was that A-level Logic result. I failed. MTS had found out. They must have sent one of their undercover agents to the place of my secondary education, Waterford Kamhlaba School, in Mbabane, Swaziland, to smuggle out my results and copies of my old school reports.

"A word in your ear, old boy," M must have grunted to the chief whip. "This character Parris could be risky. Have you seen his school records? Do you realise that he failed Logic? Now if he were ever to achieve any kind of

public position, that could be very nasty in the tabloids."

"Enough said," the chief whip will have replied. "I think we understand each other."

I found those reports and certificates yesterday, in an old drawer, with a photograph of me as a rabbit with one floppy ear in the school play in Nicosia at the age of seven. Thank God I'm not PM, or that photograph alone would have cost 15 points in the opinion polls. And then there's the A-level result: "Logic: fail."

But far more disturbing are the school reports from Swaziland. I have re-read the lot. It is profoundly depressing to review your faults in cold print, but worse is the realisation that between the ages of 14 and 41 there appears to be no sign at all of character development.

Here I am at 14, as seen by my English teacher: "He should keep a rein on his style, remembering that the ingredients of good and clear writing are not always the same as those of interesting conversation."

"At times a bit disorganised," adds another. "Prone to oversimplification of the facts, he hardly ever supports his statements," says the geography master. "Greater effort required," remarks the Zulu teacher, perceptively.

Bob Roseveare, my house-

master, was and is the soul of gentleness, so you have to use some imagination to see what he means here: "He throws himself into everything. He has a quick, alert mind, and likes expressing his opinion — forcefully. But the

realisation that in a small community like ours, those who are to be the leaders can best express that leadership in modest helpfulness, is surely growing. He is learning the importance of sometimes staying out of the limelight, in good humoured recognition of others' efforts."

Mr Roseveare meant that I ought to learn these things. The history teacher, Tony Hatton, was equally clear-sighted. "Later," he advises, "history calls for a good deal of expressing of opinions, but at this stage Matthew should concentrate more on facts. Some exam questions were answered as though he were addressing a public meeting." The soccer report is succinct: "Very little science but a vast amount of energy."

Now let us jump four years, to age 18. "Punctuated very strange" is the laconic. "Always interesting, but Matthew must resist the temptation to follow a thesis to the exclusion of other equally valid considerations."

Had I not improved at all? Let Alan Lomborg, the literature teacher, speak: "I'm sure I think only slightly less highly of Matthew's ability than he does; and hope slightly more anxiously than he does for his success in these examinations."

Enthusiastic, careless, over-

April 27 1991

Where public money is valuable is in making the city more attractive to new private money. This autumn, Manchester will see trams running on its streets again, the first new ones in half a century. The G-Mex exhibition centre is already a huge "people draw" in a sad part of the city centre. Work starts soon on a new home for the Hallé Orchestra, complementing the Royal Exchange theatre, the Opera and Granada television in a culture industry of some 10,000 jobs. Manchester is at last coming to terms with the potential appeal of its industrial archaeology, with huge restoration projects for the canals and mills.

Those who depend on public approval for their success, actors and politicians especially, cannot complain when the hand they fed from strips them naked. A celebrity's image-makers may invite the public to witness intimate scenes of domestic bliss as being good for votes or audiences or whatever the currency may be. Once that invitation is issued and accepted, the public will unavoidably think itself admitted to an open house. Asked to admire a happy marriage, the public may later like to

Now London has competition. The other great cities of Britain suffered grievously in the 1980s. They face the 1990s with new confidence. Their revival, no accident but born of the mistakes of the postwar era, offers a lesson in public and private co-operation, and a lesson in localism, which central government should heed.

Both governments also object to participation in free elections by the Khmer Rouge, who they say should be punished as genocidal criminals rather than rewarded. The West responds that this is the price of China's assent to the plan. But if the Americans are serious about peace with Vietnam and in Cambodia, they should apply at least as much pressure on China to stop arming the Khmer Rouge, and on Thailand to block illicit shipments, as they are putting on the Indochinese. There is little logic in punishing Vietnam for behaving towards Cambodia as its brother's keeper and then making a deal hang on Vietnam's willingness to wring concessions from it. With almost all Vietnamese troops out of Cambodia, there is no good reason for the embargo. Washington should lift it at once.

Ms Kelley's book may be "all lies", as the Reagans are saying, but in its "believe it or not" way it has served a greater truth. Meanwhile America holds its breath for the next exposé — the private life of Kinky Kelley, written by a rival.

An independent review by the British Computer Society, published in February, concluded that the arrangements we had made were "fully in keeping with the very high standards of confidentiality required". We know of only one case where an enumerator has had to be prosecuted.

April 23.

From Mr M. V. Schuck

Sir, The sale of census data for commercial purposes is, we may assume, an aspect of the govern-

ment I owe no such public duty.

Yours faithfully,
M. V. SCHUCK,
5 Croxden Close,
Edgware, Middlesex.
April 23.

Letters to the editor should carry daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

The Aire and its graces

Can canalside living become covetable in Leeds? Peter Davenport reports on a plan to make muddy waterways a sparkling success

As Bernie Guest steered his 45ft, 14-ton narrowboat tug, Brighouse Nan, out into the murky waters of the Aire and Calder Navigation canal in the centre of Leeds, he had to admit that life along the waterway was changing fast. Where once had stood derelict warehouses and dirty coal wharfs, developers' cranes now tower over architects' offices in gleaming glass and scrubbed brick, waterside homes, hotels, soon-to-be chic restaurants and the new headquarters of a super-market chain.

In the middle of the last century, the city was an important inland port. A network of waterways formed an essential artery for raw materials and finished products, and a range of waterside brothels and a seamen's mission reinforced the illusion that this was a bustling seaport, although it is more than 70 miles from the nearest ocean.

The expansion of the railways and the coming of the motor vehicle heralded the end of the pivotal role of rivers and canals in the economic life of the north of England, and many urban waterways were allowed to fester, hidden from view at the end of back alleys.

Today, in the drive to regenerate depressed areas of our inner cities, the presence of water, even the most sluggish and muddy canal, is seen as a potential asset by architects and developers. Waterside buildings used to turn their backs on urban canals and rivers, and present their smartest face towards the city centre. Now addresses with a view of the water are smart and desirable.

The worksday water network is made up of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, the industrial

river Aire and the Aire and Calder Navigation. On such modest foundations, the changes already achieved are significant, but plans for the future are ambitious.

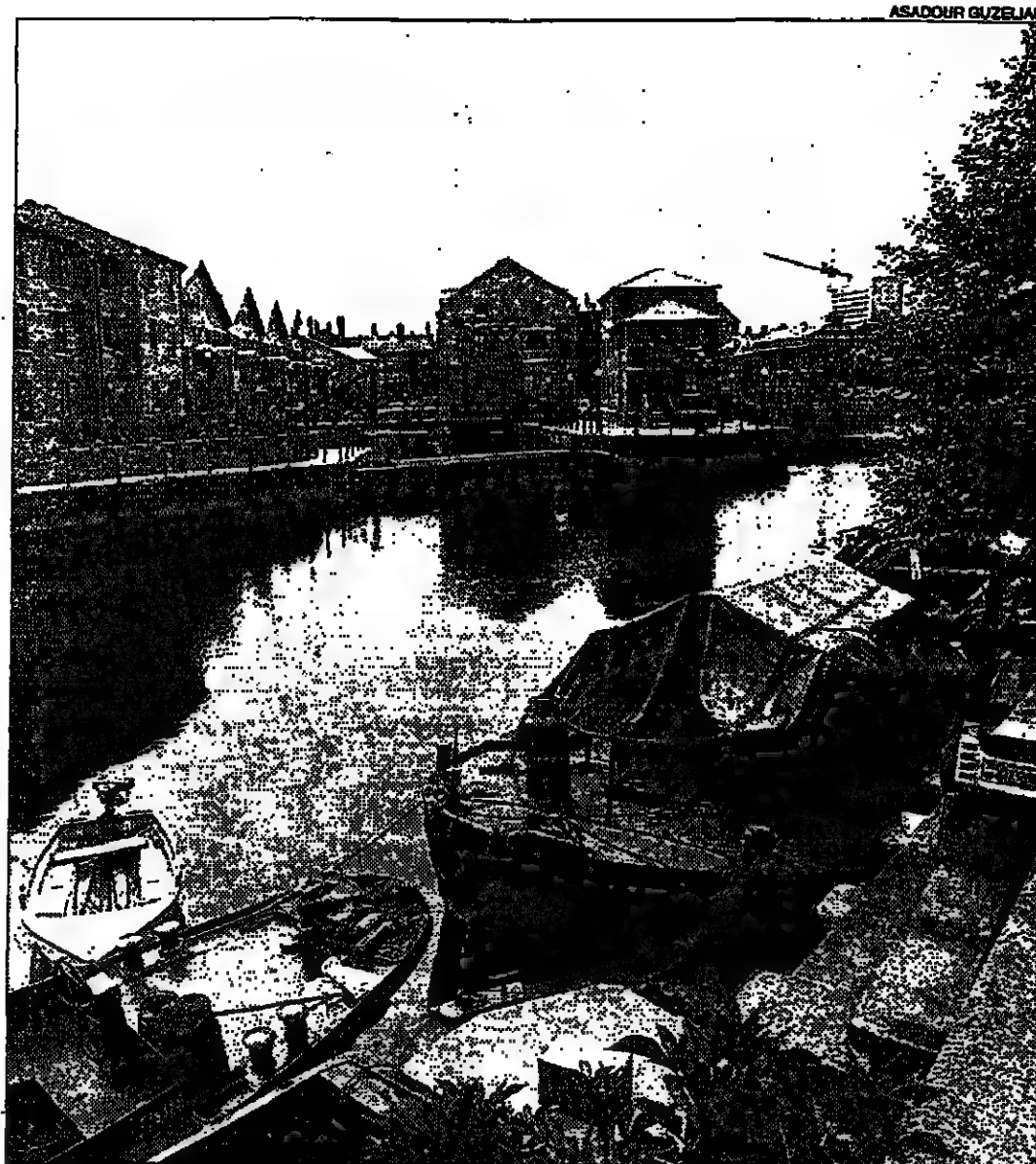
The aim is to make the waterways a centre for tourism and leisure, for both visitors and citizens, and to promote development opportunities and attract further investment to build on the city's newly established reputation as a leading financial and services centre. Next Tuesday, the Leeds Waterways Tourism Development Action programme, a three-year scheme with a budget of more than £500,000, will be launched to achieve the transformation. It is being funded by British Waterways, the English Tourist Board, the Yorkshire and Humber Tourism Board, Leeds city council, and the Leeds Development Corporation, with contributions from the private sector. Called "Building bridges across Leeds for tourism and leisure", it will develop a marketing plan for almost five miles of waterways, from the 17 miles of rivers and canals that run through the city, to stimulate commercial interest in further development.

A key element will be new walkways along the banks and the building of up to six new bridges. Public access to the waterside is a condition of planning consent wherever possible, and the quality of the water is being improved. Eric Cowin, of the city's urban development unit, says: "We do not expect that people will cancel their holiday in Cornwall for a fortnight on the canals in Leeds, but there is a lot of potential in the short-breaks market."

On board the Brighouse Nan



Martin England (left) of Leeds Development Corporation, and Robert Hall of the waterways programme



From planners' vision to vista: along the river Aire, new homes are already replacing derelict buildings

were two men with an important role in turning the ambitions into reality: Robert Hall, the director of the waterways programme, and Martin England, the chief executive of Leeds Development Corporation, which was set up by the government in 1988 with a five-year remit to regenerate nearly 1,400 acres of south central Leeds and the Kirkstall valley.

Mr England says that although only about 20-30 per cent of the potential development of the waterways is under way, this has already brought new life and vigour to sections of the canals. Up to 500 people have made their homes in waterside developments.

Mr Hall, who formerly worked as a project manager on the Jorvik Viking Centre in York, says: "In the past, the canals have formed a sort of barrier in city life, with the more prosperous areas to the north and the older, more industrialised sector to the south, but their regeneration holds out great benefits for the whole city."

Below an office development, a pair of kingfishers have made their home. Perhaps this is an indication that the plans for this once unlovely stretch of urban waterway are not mere flights of fancy.

Events in town

THIS WEEKEND

□ Tyburn walk: Annual silent procession to Tyburn Chapel, and the stone where the Tyburn tree once stood, to commemorate the Catholic martyrs who trod the same route from Newgate jail. Meet Holy Sepulchre Church, Old Bailey, tomorrow 3pm.

□ Fun weekend: The 150th anniversary celebrations of the birth of J.P. Holland, who designed the first British submarine — recovered off Portsmouth in 1982. Entertainments include Irish music and dancing, a silver band concert, clowns and fire-eaters. Museum, Gosport, Hants (0705 529217). Today, tomorrow 10am-5pm, £3, child £2.

□ Canoeing: Master the basics on the calm waters of the river Stort with the Bishop's Stortford canoe club. Equipment provided. Meet opposite the Old Bull's Head public house, London Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, today before 2pm, £1.

□ Gymnastics: Nine counties compete in the Daily Mirror championships today, and 25 gymnasts take part in the Westsides

championship tomorrow. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, (071 780 4133). Today, tomorrow from 2pm; today £4.50-£6.50, tomorrow £5.

□ Community purpose day: Abasindi drummers, poetry, youth choir, traditional religious music, steel and rock bands and an exhibition of works of art by Sudanese and Nigerians. NIA Centre for African and Caribbean Culture, Manchester. Tomorrow 2-7pm, £2.50, child £1.50.

NEXT WEEK

□ F.R.E. Hearson — 1914-1990: Exhibition of work by a leading poster designer. Design Museum, Butler's Wharf, London SE1 (071-403 6939). Tues until June 23. Tues-Sun 11.30am-6.30pm; £3, child £2.

□ Swansea Astronomical Society exhibition: Rock from the Apollo moon mission, telescopes, models. Swansea Museum, Swansea (0792 653763). Tues until late May; Tues-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm; closed Sun and Mon; 30p.

JUDY FROSHAUG

Help: Joan Phelan and Patricia Glennie, conservatory gardeners

Green fingers move indoors

The large conservatory behind Dr Joan Phelan's house in Chiswick, west London, is suffering from overcrowding. Beside the lemons, the mimosa, the ipomoea and the brucea she has planted for herself, there are hundreds of plants being reared for next month's Chelsea Flower Show.

Last October, Dr Phelan and her daughter Patricia Glennie, a barrister, launched a company called Conservatory Gardens. They are both trained garden designers and discovered that, although conservatories are at their most popular since the Victorian era, most garden centres have neither the expertise nor the plants that they require. The company aims to fill this gap.

Dr Phelan read natural sciences and plant physiology at Cambridge and after a career in research and teaching botany and molecular biology decided to indulge her love of gardening. She enrolled for a year at the College of Garden Design and during her course discovered that there were few specialist conservatory gardeners.

The warm, damp atmosphere of an indoor garden presents the ideal conditions for pests and diseases, and choosing the right plants to withstand these conditions is essential. At her first meeting with a client, Dr Phelan shows photographs of suitable plants. She also finds out the aspect, height and size of the

conservatory, when the main effect is wanted, and how much time the owner is prepared to spend tending the plants each week.

Conservatories must be frost-free, but minimum winter temperatures as low as 45°F and 50°F offer the best conditions for the widest choice of plants.

Dr Phelan prefers to be consulted before the conservatory is built so that she can advise on the best site and, in particular, persuade the client to include flower beds, which require much less watering than pots.

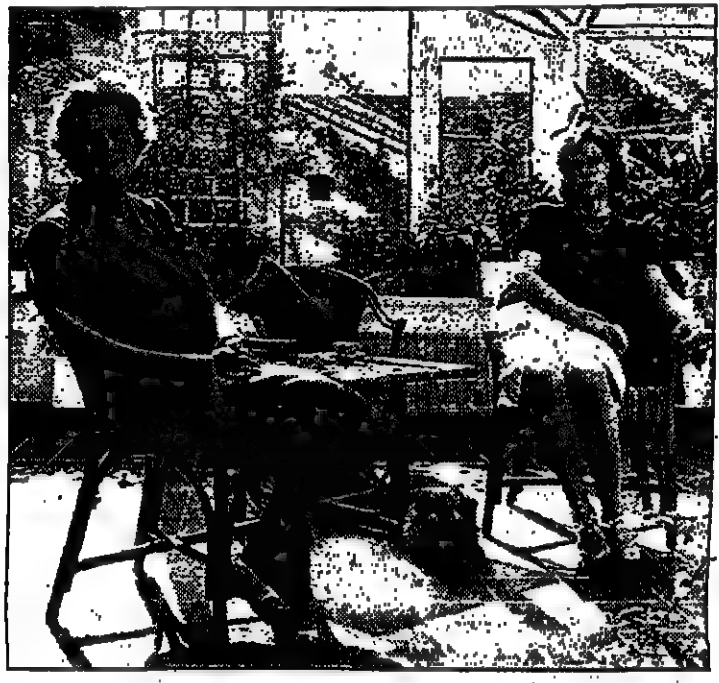
The company's minimum charge for a consultation is £30, and then £20 an hour. If it orders plants and pots the mark-up usually covers the cost of delivery. Whenever possible the gardeners will visit clients, but they will also send a planting plan by post.

Dr Phelan's computer database lists where the plants she recommends can be bought and how each should be tended. For some customers she offers an after-sales service, calling several times a year to prune and care for plants.

Visitors to the Chelsea Flower Show, which is open to the public on May 23 and 24, can find Conservatory Gardens inside one of the conservatories being exhibited by Alexander Bartholomew.

GERALDINE RANSON

Conservatory Gardens, 17 Harrington Road, Chiswick, London W4 3TL (081-994 6109).



Great indoors: Joan Phelan and Patricia Glennie, at home under glass

Assets

South of the border style

DECORATING Mexican-style means an interior design that embraces colour and simplicity. Even without a backdrop of warm adobe brickwork, rough ochre-washed plaster and massive timber beams, the carnival spirit of Mexican handicrafts is likely to find favour with home-owners bored by the limitations of country-cottage chic.

The style is derived from a heady mix of turbulent history and the cultures of the Old and New Worlds. Mexican pottery has changed little for centuries. Bulbous jugs, vases and platters in natural, earthy colours are decorated with birds and fish, while symbolic yellow suns gleam from goblets, plates and bowls. Rugs, woven in the biggest, brightest stripes, complement baskets cheerfully interwoven with coloured and natural straw, while large serapes in strong cotton stripes can live up to tired furniture.

"Mexico is not geared up for exporting, so the merchandise is difficult to get hold of," says Julie Hassan, a buyer at Liberty, which kicked off the newly opened Latin American room in its Regent Street store with a colourful range of Mexican handicrafts. "But the country is full of high-quality handicrafts, so we are sourcing pieces directly from people who make them exclusively for Liberty."

Three new ranges of furniture have been added to the traditional, hand-carved wooden pieces available at the store. These include the bright colours of hand-painted Santa Fe furniture, simple pine pieces, and heavily carved baroque-looking furniture. Tables, chairs, cupboards, picture frames, wardrobes with iron hinges, blanket chests, dressers and framed mirrors are available in the four different styles, many with Mexican motifs painted or carved on their surfaces.

Margaritas, traditional Mexican flowers, appear on a range of hand-painted tableware, exclusive to Liberty. Also exclusive is a collection of hand-blown coarse, coloured glassware in turquoise and cobalt blue.

Large wooden figures of

people, dogs, armadillos, crocodiles and mythical creatures are hand-painted with bright, intricate floral and abstract traditional designs from Oaxaca. The macabre playfulness of Indian cultures persists in papier mâché festival masks and skeletal figures.

"We are starting with Mexico and have buyers currently looking at Guatemalan textiles," says Alison Pyrah, Liberty's merchandising manager. "We will then move

on to products from other Latin American countries."

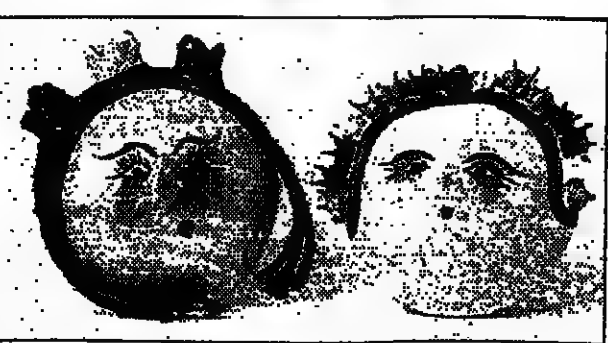
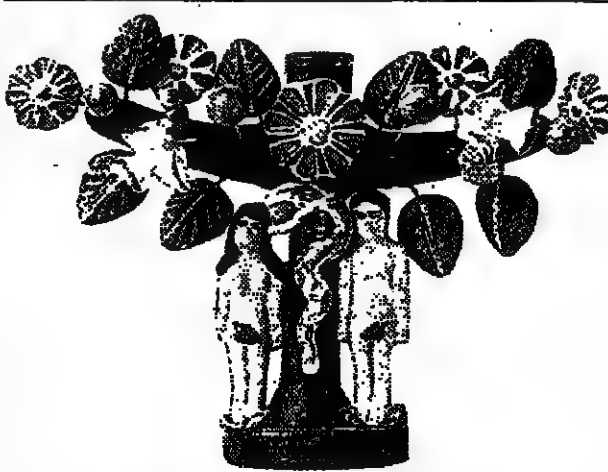
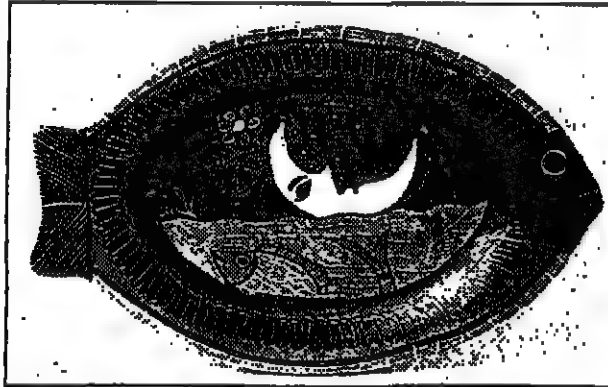
Mr Fini, who supplies more than 500 shops in Britain with goods from Latin America, started his Tumi shop in London, Bath and Oxford, in 1978. "Latin America is rich in vitality, cultural heritage and resources yet it remains one of the poorest regions in the world," he says.

"While trade with Latin American artisans continues to expand, Tumi attempts to provide them with the means

for growth. Tumi's trade policy has always involved working directly with families and small groups of producers. In all cases their earnings through Tumi have been above the level of local earnings."

A collection of photographs taken by Mr Fini in Latin America is on show at Tumi's Oxford shop until May 18 and from May 25 to July 27 at Tumi in Brighton.

NICOLE SWENGLEY



Bold and bright: from top, Mexican ceramic fish platter, centrepiece and typical decorative objects, all from Liberty

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Ma O Feather report

British eyes, like one of the most abundant court birds, but in Malta...

A court which runs tours for birders is using the Maltese Ornithological Society (MOS) to help it to shoot its most abundant birds, many of which are British. The company is also looking for alleged 'lost' birds caused by the MOS.

It has the worst record in the Mediterranean and it has taken a long time to get a popular decision. There are even 100 restrictions on 100 birds in Malta, and 100 birds in Egypt during the season.

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Wanted: a few nice pieces

After years of neglect, Alastair Robertson reports, Duff House has been restored — but it is empty

By the mid-Eighties it was apparent to Scotland's Historic Buildings and Monuments Department that something would have to be done about Duff House. William Adam's magnificent exercise in baroque classicism at Banff, on the southern shore of the Moray Firth, was nearing the end of a 30-year restoration programme, saved but chillingly empty.

Under the guidance of Timothy Clifford, the flamboyant and controversial director of the National Galleries of Scotland, it is now to become home to Scotland's large but seldom seen collection of country-house art: the portraits and the conversation pieces, the still lifes of kitchen tables heaving with dead game, and the prize bulls and favourite racehorses.

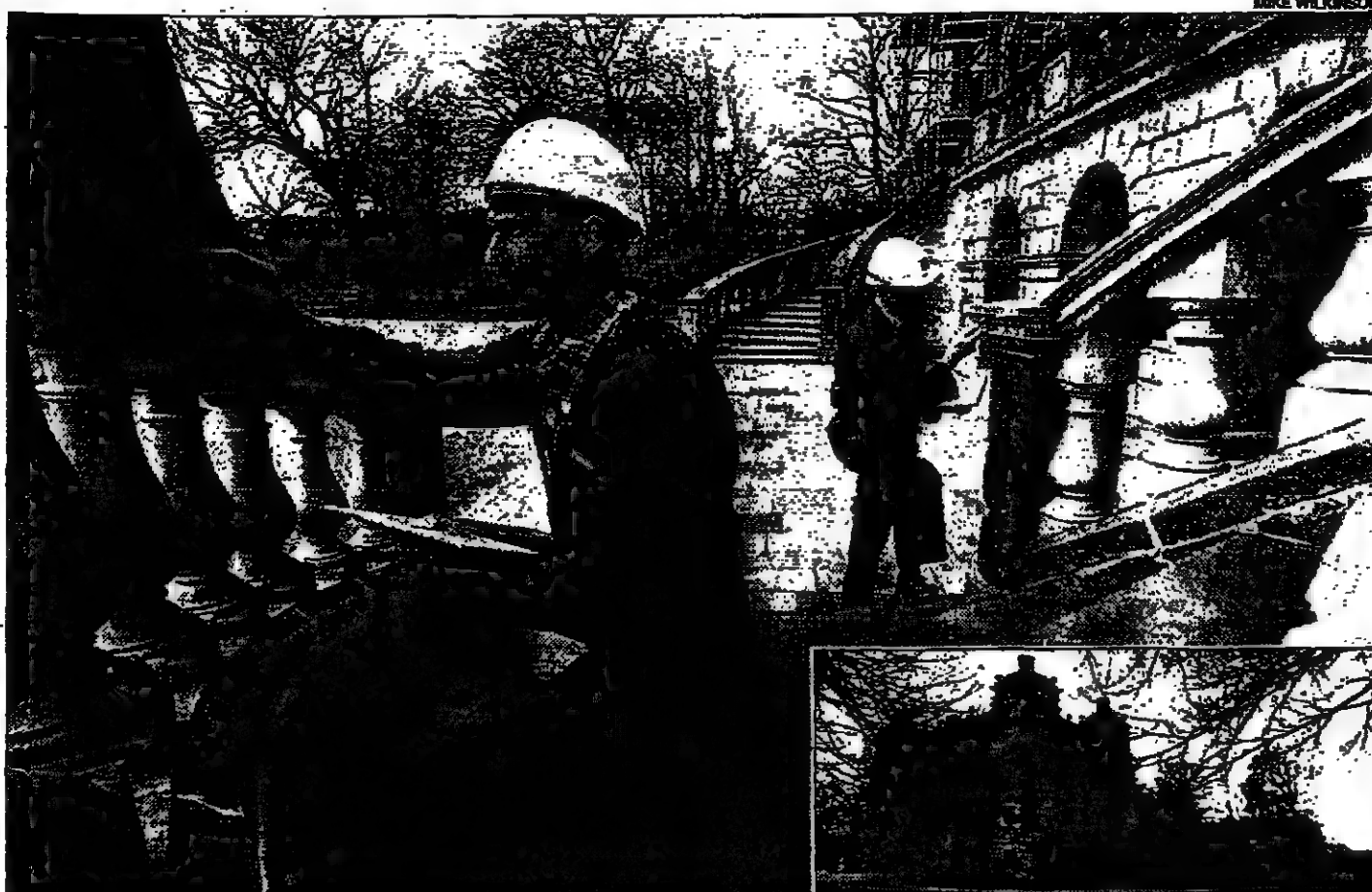
Mr Clifford plans to restore the house to its late 18th-century zenith, the days when the 2nd Earl of Fife was amassing his collection of European historical portraits.

"He produced two excellent catalogues, so we have a fairly clear idea what was there. He even mentions... and in the blue closet hangs... so we also know something about the colour schemes," he says.

The pictures in store are typical of those found in country houses throughout the land. Rather than slip in what Mr Clifford describes as second-rate Rembrandts, he is prepared to find and frame good prints of pictures he feels appropriate to the house if the National's collection cannot produce what is needed.

He will, however, produce at least one important work as a crowd-puller: exquisite as Duff House may be, it is a long way from Loch Ness and Edinburgh Castle.

"It will not be some fossilised reinterpretation; it will be an informed, intelligent and amusing gallery — well, gallery is the wrong



Country house as gallery: workers repair Duff House and, inset, the facade of William Adam's magnificent exercise in baroque classicism

word. An intelligent and amusing house," Mr Clifford says.

By all accounts it will be the first amusing thing to have happened to Duff House since a councillor proposed turning it into a municipal swimming pool. For all its splendour, on the outskirts of what is possibly Scotland's best preserved 17th and 18th century town, the house's history is, with the exception of a brief period, one of indecision and uncertainty.

William Duff, who became Lord Braco and then 1st Earl of Fife, was a Highland nouveau riche. In need of a seat worthy of his social elevation, he selected a site to the south of Banff, an elegant town to which the gentry retreated in winter from their freezing estates in the hinterland.

Adam's design in his *Vitruvius* Scotica of 1735 shows a soaring baroque palace, a tower at each corner, with flanking pavilions joined to the main block by curving colonnades. But only the main block was completed.

Adam had the more complex stone carving executed by George Jamieson at Queensferry, outside Edinburgh; 20 Corinthian and 16 composite capitals, 34 vases, two coats of arms and six keystones. For these Braco was presented with a bill for £2,500. He balked, called a halt to work in 1741, and client and architect spent five years locked in litigation. Adam won, but the worry killed him before Braco settled.

Braco, by now Earl of Fife, retired to Balvenie, his house at Dufftown on the Spey, and abandoned the undecorated shell to his

son James, Lord MacDuff. MacDuff made a great effort to finish the house and furnish it as grandly as possible. It is his catalogues and inventories which survive.

His death marked the beginning of a gradual decline; by 1824 the silver and 120 pictures were being sold off. The 6th earl managed to become a duke by marrying a princess, and still owned 257,657 Scottish acres. But the house was an expensive burden which he generously presented, empty, to the unsuspecting burghers of Banff and MacDuff in 1907. The house lurched in use from smart hotel to nursing home to barracks and prison camp. In 1956 the Scottish secretary took it over, and has spent more

than £800,000 since making the house wind and watertight, restoring plaster mouldings, recasting statues and repairing stonework.

Initial estimates for Mr Clifford's project suggest it will cost less than £1 million, to be paid for by Historic Scotland (the renamed Historic Buildings and Monuments Department), with the first pictures hung in two years. But until he can prise an annual furniture allowance from the Scottish secretary, Mr Clifford concedes he must beg and borrow. "But in the meantime we must study the catalogues and inventories and find out if we have any of the pictures which were originally in the house, what our collections can provide, and what the house itself can take," he says.

Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

A potato angel from the marsh

I KNOW an old farmworker who lives alone in a cottage by a marsh. He lives simply, cooking his meal in a smoky old pot on an open coal fire, and when he is not boiling up food for himself, the pot goes on bubbling with potato peelings for the hens. His garden is neat and ruthlessly productive: beans, cabbages, spuds and doughty sprouts thrive there. He does not waste space on flowers except for a row of sweet peas, which he hands out to his lady admirers, who are numerous. He has been a friend of mine for a year, but this week he was the answer to my prayers.

My problems began a fortnight ago. At about four o'clock one morning, I sat bolt upright in bed and announced that I was going to have to cancel the seed potatoes. Not only that, the cows were going to have to go. It was all becoming too much. Then, sweating with anxiety, I remembered there were 20 tons of manure to spread, meadows to be harrowed, pigs to be moved. "I'm cancelling the potatoes," I shouted again, this time with a sob in my voice as I thrust my head into the pillow in the hope of sleep. But there was no relief. Executives would call this a nervous breakdown and bring in therapists, but I suspect that such sleepless nights are a regular feature of farming life. Anyway, I couldn't cancel the potatoes because they were on the way.

Inspired by a holiday postcard, I decided perhaps I ought to say my prayers. The postcard, a folksy affair from the Austrian borders, showed "Saint Isidor, the Farm-Labourer". He was a talented ploughman and devout man of God, so highly regarded that while he was praying every day, angels

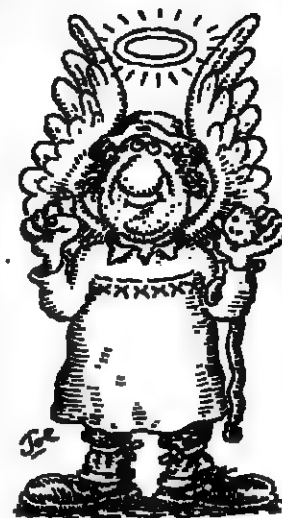
would come and do his work for him. The painting shows him kneeling before his church while a beaming angel in a nightdress ploughs the land behind.

My wife, who has custody of the *Dictionary of Saints*, tells me that, being a typical farmer, St Isidor stoutly denied he had any help. But I have learnt humility. I admitted I needed an angel, said my prayer, and soon fell asleep.

I am wary of admitting to visions, lest I be bracketed with the reborn turquoise tracksuit brigade, but I awoke with the name of the old man of the marsh on my lips. Thank you, St Isidor. I can't imagine why I hadn't thought of him before. He would make an ideal potato-planting companion. Like much manual work on farms, potato planting has a biblical simplicity about it. But it is slow, tedious and back-breaking, and if there is any way of getting a little unbiblical jollity into it, the opportunity must be seized.

I ploughed the furrows while the old boy filled the baskets and hauled the seed. He started at one end, I at the other, and when we met in the middle there was always a cheery tale to be told. There was the story of how he chopped off the end of one of his fingers, took it to the surgery to have it sewn back on but was told the doctor would be out for at least an hour. "Well, I weren't waitin' that long," he said, "so I chucked it away and went home fur m' ten."

Tales told, we would stoop once more to the potato planting. From a distance, a passer-by might think we were bent in prayer. But only St Isidor would have recognised which of us was giving thanks, and which was the labouring angel.



Maltese cross-hairs on British birds

Feather report

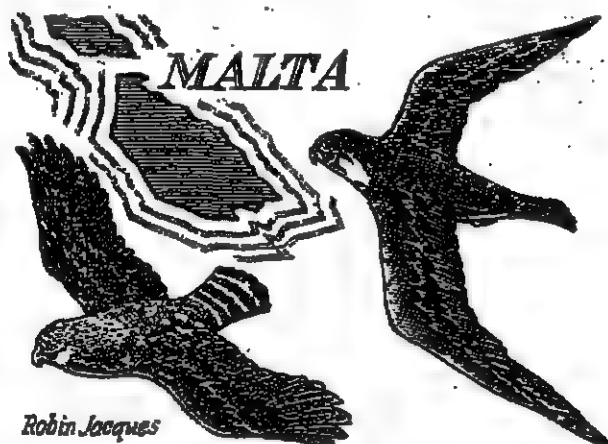
To British eyes, this looks like one of the most absurd court cases in history. But in Malta it is a cause célèbre. A company which runs tours for bird-hunters is suing the Maltese Ornithological Society (MOS) for the right to shoot legally protected birds, many of which breed in Britain. The tour company is claiming £52,000 for alleged loss of revenue caused by the MOS.

Malta has the worst record for shooting in the Mediterranean, and it has taken to exporting its hunters. Egypt has been a popular destination. There are even fewer practical restrictions on hunters there than in Malta, and you can visit Egypt during the Maltese close season. Thus, you can blast away at the birds that migrate up the Nile valley and along the eastern Mediterranean. These include such British breeders as white-throats, which are little warblers that nest in tangles of bramble, and turtle doves, whose purring song is, more than the crump of cricket ball on bat, the sonic essence of a southern English summer.

In 1988, the MOS launched a campaign to stop Maltese hunters visiting Egypt to shoot protected birds. It linked with the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP), which has, in turn, put pressure on the Egyptian government. Protecting birds by law is one thing; enforcing the law is quite another. The result is that Egypt has imposed restrictions on the activities of foreign hunters.

So far so good. But Edward Vassallo, the director of Sphinx Tours, has responded by taking legal action against the MOS.

There is no question about the shooting of protected species in Egypt. Little owl, kestrel, black-shouldered kite and little green bee-eater have all been shot. In April last year, an Egyptian tour guide



Robin Jacques

Under fire: the little owl, left, and the hobby are two targets of the hunt. Birds of prey are particularly favoured. I wonder how many of the 27 marsh harriers miraculously raised at Minsmere bird reserve in Suffolk in the past have been shot over Malta this spring.

To lead the Mediterranean league for bad conservation should be a cause of national shame. This court case could be pivotal for conservation. Every time I hear of mass bird shooting, I think of Martha, the last passenger pigeon, who died in Cincinnati zoo in 1914. Passenger pigeons were, perhaps, the most numerous species in history. With Martha, they went extinct. They flew in flocks four miles long and a mile wide, blackening the sky. They nested in colonies of 30 square miles. They were shot to extinction. They, too, seemed the gift of a bountiful providence.

Simon Barnes, of The ICBP, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ (0223 277318).

What's about: *Birders* — listen for the grasshopper warbler, arriving now from Africa. You might even glimpse one in a bush. *Twitchee* — a marsh sandpiper at Elmley reserve, Kent; little bunting at Cromer, Norfolk and a red-rumped swallow on Trecco, Isles of Scilly. Details from *Birdline*, 0898 700222.

Malta has for centuries been a stepping-stone for birds migrating from north Africa and up through Italy. The tradition of shooting them began as a search for food: the over-flying hordes were seen as the gift of a bountiful providence. Now the birds are shot and stuffed: the Maltese fad is to have a bigger collection of stuffed birds than your

from cocoon to thread, corn dolly and straw lace making, basketry and weaving. *Willow Gallery, Wexley, Herefordshire*. Today, tomorrow 10am-5pm; 50p, accompanied child 20p.

Landscapes detectives: Join the search for clues on the history of the Lea valley and discover the influence of man on its landscape. *Meet Fishers Green car park, Stubbings Hall Lane, off the B194, Holford Road, Waltham Abbey, Essex*. Tomorrow 2pm (information 0992 713838).

NEXT WEEK
Living history: Members of the Sealed Knot and the

English Civil War Society living 17th century-style at an historic manor. *Armon, Isle of Wight (0983 528134)*. Mon, until May 17, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat-Sun noon-6pm; £3, child £2.
Whitewind championships: International equestrian competition. Dressage Thursday and Friday, cross-country Saturday, showjumping Sunday. *Badminton House, Avon*. Thu-Fri 9am-5.30pm; Sat, gates open 7am, first event 11am; Sun 9.30am-5.30pm. Admission (car plus all occupants) Thurs, Fri, Sat, £10; Sat £20. Four-day season tickets £38.

JUDY FROSHAUG

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INTERCITY

Grown-up games with toys

Outsiders are
infiltrating the old
toy network,
as Sarah Jane
Checkland reports

There is something going on in toyland. Apart from the customary competition between the band of bankers and accountants who collect Dinky toys and hold regular "swap meets" at country fairs, Sotheby's, Christie's and Phillips are contending with two threats to their supremacy.

First is Boyes, the young Danish auctioneer who entered the scene last week with a small army of tiny, gesturing Nazi soldiers, and achieved a record for a Rudolf Hess figure at £3,375. "It is a dream to come to London," says 28-year-old Frank Boyes, who was pleased with the performance of the Nazi soldiers, but disappointed with their bland British counterparts, such as Royal Scots guards, for which bids stopped at £30.

The auction also offered the spectator sport of a bidding duel between two leading collectors of Elastolin figures, made by the German company of that name from a composite of pearl-glass, resin and wood pulp - the mustache German dealer George Shultz, and sleek Bertel Brumm, an American/Danish dealer.

Such toys, along with all Nazi memorabilia, are banned by Sotheby's, whose chairman, Alfred Taubman, is Jewish. Christie's and Phillips occasionally relax their non-Nazi rule for toys on the grounds of their supposed innocuity.

The toys are only a fraction of the golden seam of supplies Mr Boyes says is waiting in the attics of Danish houses, the market not having been tapped there. Having gained a foothold, Mr Boyes plans to return to Britain and consolidate.

The second challenge, to the auction houses comes from Jeffrey Levitt, an entrepreneurial British dealer in toys in his mid thirties who, having prefixed the word "executive" before the more prosaic "toys", hovers outside the playpen, spying out the best on offer. He then scoops them up and, he says, sells them for much more to the rich (Japanese businessmen) and famous (the Sultan of Selangor, Frank Sinatra and Steven Spielberg).

Mr Levitt says that within eight years he has raised his turnover from £350,000 to £14 million in the



Challenging the auction houses: Jeffrey Levitt of Mint & Boxed, the toys dealer, which this week was given a Queen's award for export achievement

year to June 1990. This year, after opening a shop on Madison Avenue, New York, he expects to exceed £27 million. No wonder his company, Mint & Boxed, was given a Queen's award for export achievement this week.

"Potential investors are beginning to realise that antique toys are works of art and, as such, are as collectable as fine paintings, sculpture or ceramics," he says.

Mr Levitt claims the big auction houses missed their chance to take toy collecting seriously in the late Eighties, adding: "My network of agents and contacts is scouting the world. We have seen prices increase 20 to 25 per cent each year."

He cites the example of a German Marklin clockwork gauge tramcar made for the Dutch market in 1902 which he sold for £28,000 two weeks ago, compared with the £19,000 he gained last year from an almost identical example made for the Belgian market. He expects a place in the Guinness Book of Records for his biggest price, the \$1 million paid by a Japanese collector last September for a Charles Hove reel pump - an early American tin toy depicting a fire engine and named Charles.

John Baddeley of Sotheby's retail-

ists: "He is someone who buys a toy at auction, multiplies it ten or 20 times and then sells on. If he can do it, clever old Jeffrey Levitt. But it may be that there is a Jeffrey Levitt price and then there is a market price, and that when people look and see they will not be so happy."

The toy collecting field is distinct in a number of respects. First, it is short on dealers - Mr Baddeley estimates only 100 throughout the world - but enjoyed by thousands of amateurs. Also, the interest in toys over the past few years has inevitably resulted in much re-evaluation of what is and is not rare, making for some reversals in prices.

Another characteristic is that toys become antiques more quickly than objects in other fields, where the qualifying rule often demands 50 years of existence. One new area, for example, is electric Japanese robots from the Fifties.

The latest emergent strand, as witnessed by the Bonhams auction

of Dr Who memorabilia scheduled for May 11, is television-related toys, although, as Mr Baddeley says, they have not reached "the prices which make it interesting for us".

"Boddy going" into this new field, as the captain of another starship might say, Bonhams has omitted printed estimates for the "three baskets of assorted armour" and "Tractor" - a large worm-like alien with gravity-controlling powers.

When toys were toys, and not computer games, it was the German manufacturers who always led the field, from their tin-plate toys to their 19th century Kammer and Reinhardt dolls. (A Kammer and Reinhardt 1909 bisque character doll sold for £90,200, a world record price for a doll, at Sotheby's in February 1989; a windfall for Ann Challen, a nurse, who found it in her attic.)

Britain came second, particularly after the second world war, says an expert, when the banning of Ger-

man products proved the making of companies such as Hornby and Dinky.

A rare Dinky Heinz van which originally cost £64 (42½p) sold for £2,800 in March last year, but there is still scope for the relatively impecunious collector in this British market, particularly in lesser-known makes such as Bessett Lowke, a British producer of train sets which, some collectors claim, were superior in quality to those of Hornby. According to Hugo Marsh of Christie's, a 1940 Hornby Princess Elizabeth engine might fetch up to £3,000, while a Bessett Lowke equivalent would be £2,000.

Teddy bears, having sealed the heights following publicity surrounding a series of records - in September 1989 a Steiff bear broke the record for a teddy when it fetched an astonishing £55,000 - have now slumped to about half their previous value.

© The Sotheby's toy sale on May 9 includes a Sixties Japanese Horikawa space station, including rooms for "rest and recreation", estimated at £500 to £700. The Christie's South Kensington sale on May 16 includes "wonderful" pre-war Dinky and a Marklin train set, estimated at £7,000 to £10,000.

Getty chases £6m Rubens

Review

Go Getty: Despite the irritation felt by the Getty Museum of California at the British art export supremos who relished its bid for Canova's *The Three Graces*, the museum is hoping to gain possession of a £6.31 million Rubens oil sketch, *The Miracles of St Francis of Paola*, when the export ban on it ends on May 6. Because the work is considered academic and, therefore, uninteresting by experts such as Christopher Brown at the National Gallery, no British museum is trying to raise funds to save it. St Francis used to hang alongside Constable's *The Lock at Sudley Castle*, Winchester, Gloucestershire, and is the second work to be sold in six months by the trustees of the Walter Morrison Settlement, which owns the castle's collection.

Star power: Marilyn Monroe's swimsuit, worn in publicity stunts for the film *There's No Business Like Show Business*, fetched £13,200 at Christie's South Kensington. Madonna's gold Lurex top failed to attract enough bids.

Winged instrument: A late 18th century cello by William Forster made a record price for an English cello when it fetched £24,200 at Phillips.

Preview

Monday: Christie's hopes to raise £850,000 for a Spitfire at the Science Museum, Wroughton, Wiltshire. At Christie's South Kensington, there are groups of Roman glassware at £100 upwards per lot, and Aric black figure cups, circa 500 BC, at up to £200 for two; 10.30am. At 2pm, Bonhams offers a 1st century AD Roman marble torso, estimated at up to £2,000. In Dumfries, Thomson Roddick & Laurie offers sporting guns at 6pm.

Tuesday: The Victoria Cross awarded to Pimper George Findlater, "the Hero of Dargat", a Gordon Highlander who continued to play his regimental march despite being shot through both feet, is expected to fetch up to £35,000 at Christie's, London.

Wednesday: A chance to buy at Christie's a study of the manuscript and birds of Australia by John Gould, the 19th century British naturalist and illustrator; estimates, £500 to £3,000 each. Next

door at Spink & Son, the annual exhibition of English watercolours and drawings begins. An early Victorian double dressing table is on offer at Christie's South Kensington (up to £1,000; 12.30pm).

Wednesday and Thursday: Christie's Scotland takes over the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, for sales of objects of art and furniture on Wednesday at 2pm; silver on Thursday, 11am; and paintings on Thursday, 6.30pm. A bibulous bidder might take a pair of 1775 silver goblets (up to £1,200).

Thursday: Richard Watson offers 80 lots of 18th century glasses at Newark, Nottinghamshire, 11am.

Friday: Five centuries of Old Master paintings can be seen at Harari & Johns, the St James's dealers in an exhibition which upstages in



quality anything coming up at the auction houses. Anybody wanting a Victorian child's galloper tricycle should look carefully at the one offered by Watcombs Manor, Watlington, Oxfordshire, 10.30am - a number of Dutch copies have been sighted at British sales.

Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (071-581 7611). Bonhams, Montpelier Street, SW7 (071-584 9161). Thomson Roddick & Laurie, 60 Whitehead, Dumfries (0337 53366). Christie's Scotland, 164-6 Bath Street, Glasgow (041-332 8134). Richard Watkinson, 17 Northgate, Newark, Nottinghamshire (0636 77154). Harari & Johns, 12 St James's, W1 (071-839 7671). Simmons & Sons, 32 Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire (0491 571111).

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TELEVISION REVIEW

Radical sheds and mow-mow horticulture

Last year, I had occasion to consult a garden specialist, I asked him to have a look at my slightly overgrown back garden and give me his honest opinion about a few things — such as the possible whereabouts of the shed, which had disappeared from sight during a rapid growing season. After he had driven away (rather quickly) in his little green van, I noticed from his business card that the main speciality of this young man was "24 Hour Emergency Gardening", which perhaps explained his lack of enthusiasm for shed-diving. His usual clients must be Gold Card holders who phone up at 4am, frantic with worry about the frost, requesting urgent blankets and hot-water bottles for their window-boxes.

If Channel 4's *Dig* has not caught up with this chap, then there is no time to lose. Scheduled on Friday night (the traditional evening for watching close-ups of Geoff Hamilton's capable thumbs packing the compost around a newly potted seedling), *Dig* represents an entirely alternative gardening culture, with an emphasis on youth, style, immediacy and out-of-the-way botanical curiosities, such as carnivorous Venus fly-traps and plants that impart a nasty whiff. Most items are short, multicoloured and spacious. The regular gardening experts make intriguing viewing simply because they are startlingly young. They resemble fifth-formers in mufti, speak with plebeian Nigel Kennedy accents, and are slightly embarrassed when using technical words like "dibber".

The problem with all this "horrid culture is hip" stuff is that gardening is self-evidently not an activity

Lynne Truss on a host of hip gardening tips, and the contradictions that blunted three investigations of the Chernobyl disaster.

remotely appropriate to people with short attention-spans. Gardening is about continuity. Good gardeners are generally plegmatic, unexcitable people with attention-spans averaging ten or fifteen years. *Dig* is seeking out some stylish gardening role models — this week Derek Jarman — to show that personality can be as important to a gardener as patience and stout thumbs. But while Jarman was the perfect host — excitedly reciting around his windswept Romney Marsh shingle-garden dressed in the customary boiler suit — the values represented by his garden were clearly at odds with the fashion ethic of the show. Jarman's garden has nothing to do with ephemeralism. It is quasi-religious, a kind of post-modernist tabernacle.

One of the more pleasant innovations of *Dig* is that people engage in a physical interaction with plants — they eat the leaves of periwinkle, punch the bark of acacia, and stroke and twiddle with trailing plants. In keeping with this hands-on policy, Jarman last night demonstrated the loveliness of a santalina bush by hugging and fondly patting it, rather as though it were an old English sheep dog. However, given that the

permanent backdrop to his garden is the Dungeness power station (and that this week has been the widely-commemorated fifth anniversary of Chernobyl), Jarman's plant-cuddling was imbued with a rather sinister overtone. Watch out, Derek! The garden may be packed with mutating life forms! Personally, I half expected the santalina bush to respond to Jarman's caress by grabbing his wrist, and hissing to the other shrubs, "Who's the wise guy?"

I confess I looked forward to the Chernobyl programmes with a certain degree of alarm. The trouble with intensive viewing of television documentaries is that you soon start to notice that they blithely contradict one another over matters of fact. For example, after the recent *Horizon* programme on passive smoking (BBC 2), I confidently informed all my friends that cigarettes contained four thousand chemicals, 55 of which are carcinogenic. For some reason, these figures had stuck in my mind, and had assumed the status of fact. A couple of weeks later, however, on National No Smoking Day, I watched *J.E.D.'s* investigation into the same subject (BBC 1), and was happily nodding in a knowledgeable kind of way ("Uh-huh, Uh-huh"), when the narrator stated that the number of chemicals in cigarettes was ("OK, yes, get on with it") three thousand. What? My instant reaction was that since neither figure could now be trusted, the whole point of watching television had been completely undermined. "I know, let's call it six thousand," I muttered childishly, as I tore up my notes.



Plant-cuddling with sinister overtones: Derek Jarman, fashionable guest on this week's *Dig*

The gardening experts resemble fifth-formers in mufti and are slightly embarrassed when using technical words like 'dibber'

Something to do with the inherent magisterial authority of television makes the viewer expect consistency over facts and figures. Somehow, it is the television itself that confers authority on such statements, and it is disarming to realise that the box has already forgotten what it told you only a few days ago. With all the programmes about Chernobyl in the past week — *Children of Chernobyl* (Channel 4), *Horizon's* "Inside Chernobyl Sarcophagus" (BBC 2) and *This Week's* two-part investigation of the cover-up (Thames) — I found myself so worried about how they would present their individual findings that I actually heaved sighs of relief each time they concurred with one another. Flawless. They all said the reactor had weighed 2,000 tons; all said the exclusion zone was 18 miles in radius, and agreed that the population of Kiev is 3 million. We seemed to be getting somewhere.

On the other hand, what about the men who cleared the radioactive debris from the roof? Each programme showed footage of men in inadequate lead aprons shovelling up tiny amounts of clinker, flinging it down into the burned-out reactor, and retreating sharply. Exposed to a lifetime's dose of radiation during a single minute, these men were rewarded with certificates and then sent away, their function fulfilled. But who were they? *Horizon* called

them "Red Army volunteers". *This Week* called them "young soldiers", while *Children of Chernobyl* stated categorically: "They were not volunteers. They were picked up off the streets, and press-ganged onto the roof." Again, how many of them were there? *Horizon* said there were 3,400 men doing these "roof runs", while *Children of Chernobyl* said there were 800. You end up either believing it all or believing nothing. Since the story was generally so appalling, I have settled for compromise. I can tell you then, with every confidence, that if nuclear contamination from Chernobyl gets into the water table, it will affect the drinking water of either 14 million or 35 million people. After all, whichever is correct, the numbers are huge and terrible. The only thing that seems certain is that, whenever this catastrophe does take place, either 14 million or 35 million people will have drunk it, swum in it, and bathed their babies' heads in it before anyone tells them what has happened.

ROCK

Soup à la Sixties

THEY must be wondering what to do to grab a headline. On their recent British tour The La's were supported, and all but overshadowed, by the emerging Milltown Brothers. In this week's Radio 1 concert at the Marquee they were sandwiched between House of Love, who are highly accomplished, and the Soup Dragons, who are becoming so.

The point about British dance rock is that we have heard most, if not all of it, before. The La's take their mining of the past one step further than others: to look at, and to listen to, they are a flawless pastiche of a classic 1960s four-piece mod band. Toting those trendy farmland haircuts and that rudimentary barmy drum beat, they do nothing to suggest that times have moved on since the Troggs, the Small Faces and the Kinks trod the same boards 25 years ago.

What the obsession with hindsight yields is a clutch of well-crafted tunes. "Son of a Gun", "I Can't Sleep", "There She Goes" and "Doldrums", all culled from their first official album, are purely retrospective reveals delivered by Lee Mavers, a blond imitator of the Nick Howard mould, with an anguished rasp reminiscent of Lennon or Morrison in their youth. One wonders whether The La's have it in them to progress like either of these Sixties icons.

THE Soup Dragons also know how to plunder the past, but they do so more indiscriminately. "I'm Free", the anthem with which they closed their hour long broadcast, is from the Jagged-Richards back catalogue. Taken on by the Soup Dragons, it is a tense, endearing, and a carefree, hedonistic vocal, the frenetic lick of a guitar and a funkily threatening bass line. When Sean Dickson swishes his maracas and sings "I'm free to do what I want, any old time", one senses that pop's hankering for rebellion is not yet dead, even if the sentiments are borrowed from three decades back.

The Soup Dragons performed with a psychedelic light show and a will to entertain that is somehow lacking in The La's. Even as "Mother Universe", "Backwards Dog" and "Burnout" assaulted the eardrums in an impairing manner, one still reflected that there is something more engaging about them than any of the Manchester bands. Sometimes they went overboard: one fog of dry ice which blasted its way into the blinded crowd might have had Cecil B de Mille's signature on it, but even in the hemmed-in space, this suited the heroic dimensions of the music. Long may they rave.

JOHN PERCIVAL

JASPER REES

Madness in the Method

THEATRE
Black Snow
Cottesloe

THIS is a revenge-drama, but an unusual one. It is the Russian dramatist Bulgakov's balefully comic attempt to de-mythologise the great Stanislavsky, whom he somewhat unjustly held responsible for the butchering of his play *Molière*. And whatever anybody's critical reservations, this produces moments of high hilarity.

Black Snow, like Bulgakov's *The White Guard*, was a novel; but unlike *The White Guard*, which triumphed at Stanislavsky's Moscow Arts Theatre, it has had to wait until now to cross the footlights. In Keith Dewhurst it has, however, found an almost too faithful adaptor. That the first half of the novel is preparation for comic explosions to come, and contains dullish bits, seems not to worry him. The original story is almost all there.

Sergei Maksudov, in Ron Cook's performance, is a badly bruised ego saved from suicide only by chance and a native obstinacy, decides to transform a novel much like *The White Guard* into a play for a theatre much like the Moscow Arts

Dewhurst's first act consists of a mixture, at times a muddle, of dialogue, narrative, fantasy and bits of performance as the aspiring author confronts the theatre's business manager, actors — and, after much wandering through invisible passages and up imaginary stairs, the famous Ivan Vassilevich, alias Stanislavsky.

At this point William Gaskill's intermittently engaging production becomes a most amusing one. Indeed, whenever Ivan Vassilevich was on stage, I for one began wishing that *Black Snow* would go on until midnight. That is almost entirely because of the wonderfully wintry charisma Robin Bailey brings to the character's grandiose absurdities. This understated actor has been modestly embellishing the stage for years. Here, he moves onto the top table alongside Michael Horden, while adding a steely disdain to the stricken bleats the senior actor has made his own.

His first scene with Maksudov is entertaining enough. He greets him as a high-class undertaker might greet someone who has dumped a rather seedy corpse on his doorstep, quizzing the playwright from behind pince-nez with lugubrious fastidiousness. The

play, he allows, might be acceptable if gunshots are removed, the anti-Bolshevik hero kills himself with a dagger, and the younger characters become matricorns and patriarchs. That is to appease the ageing Moscow Arts veterans.

This upsets Maksudov. But what reduces him to despair, and the audience to stitches, is Bulgakov's parody of Stanislavsky in the rehearsal-room, primly demonstrating the madness in his Method. There is no funnier scene in London than the one in which a wretched actor, whose love-making is found wanting, is forced to circle the stage on a bike, exuding devotion from the saddle. And behind it is a charge still worth hearing today: that the Method substitutes earnest detail for a sense of the play as a whole.

By the evening's irritatingly abrupt ending, the affectations, rivalries and silliness of theatre people have been ridiculed. But Stanislavsky's reputation has been shredded. In Bulgakov's and Bailey's view, he was a vainglorious tyrant, suspicious even of his sycophants and hostile to anything fresh. Unfair, no doubt; but a lot of people in and out of the theatre will find the attack liberating.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Ron Cook as Sergei Maksudov

JOHN Cranko made a ballet out of *The Taming of the Shrew* because, upon reading the play, he realised how visual all the comedy was. He was right: the knockabout duets are what please audiences in spite of rather dreary designs by Elizabeth Dalton and a score (by Kurt-Heinz Stolte after Scarlatti) which is serviceable, but hardly more.

English National Ballet's new touring production is excellently staged by Cranko's former assistant George Tsingourides and danced superbly and enthusiastically by the company. But they have a big job on their hands, living up to roles made originally for an exceptional group of dancers in the Stuttgart ballet. If the best performers out of the two casts I saw at Bristol had been put together, the result would have been impressive; as it was, both performances were uneven.

Two of this season's recruits to the company, Agnes Oaks and Thomas Edur, shone out

Anything but tame

DANCE
The Taming of the Shrew
Hippodrome, Bristol

as the young lovers, Bianca and Lucentio. They come from Estonia, and both dance with elegance and expressiveness, giving their roles a sympathetic warmth and switching easily from comedy to romance. They appeared in the evening when Renata Calderini and Maurizio Belzani, able, experienced and likeable dancers, gave proficient but conventional accounts of Kate and Petruchio.

Those roles can be much funnier and more touching, too, given more weight and

angularity, as the matinee cast showed. Lynne Charles, an American ballerina who has worked mainly in Europe, is with ENB for a period as regular guest. She gives a robust and realistic nature to this role of a strong woman who stands up for herself; even her submissiveness at the end has a hint of relish of the privileges it brings her.

Her adversary-partner is Laurent Novis, a rising dancer who has joined from the Paris Opera. He responds with lively cheerfulness to the role's dramatic opportunities, dancing with both polish and swag.

Among the secondary roles, only Craig Randolph as the sneeze-ridden Gremio presents a credible character, but there is some promising new talent on display in the short *pas de six* at Bianca's wedding, with Oksana Panchenko, Ana Lobe and a batch of bright young men.

JOHN PERCIVAL

JASPER REES

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Doctrine of death

Plenty have followed the James Dean doctrine — live fast, die young. But none ever embraced the fatal approach to immortality with as much passionate devotion as Jim Morrison. The overdoes which killed Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and Sid Vicious merely ended careers. The one which left Morrison dead in a bath in a Parisian apartment seemed, in its ghastly way, to sum up his messy but uniquely influential life's work.

Robert Sandall, in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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BBC 1

- 7.05 Open University: Maths: Pi and e
7.30 Pinocchio. Animated adventures with the boy puppet 7.50
Kiss My Face. Kiss My Face play one practical joke too many (r)
8.15 The 6.15 From Manchester. Children's magazine series
presented by Rose King and Charlotte Hinde. Guests include
Anta O'Brien, the ex-Neighbours star, currently appearing with
Peter Dinklage in the West End show My Lovely... Shyama Maital
the England football squad, who are preparing for their clash with
Turkey, and rock band The Petrol Emotions. Plus cartoon fun with
Hemlock and Attack of the Killer Tomatoes
10.55 Film: *Geordie* (1985). Gentle comedy starring Alastair Sim and Bill
Travers and set in Australia and the Highlands of Scotland.
Geordie is a puffy schoolboy who, tired of the continual bullying
meted out to him and the nickname "Titch", enrolls in a body-
building correspondence course which wins him untold athletic
prowess and a chance to throw the hammer for Britain in the
Olympics. Directed by Frank Launder 12.27 Weather
12.30 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam from Wembley. The
line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.35 and 1.05 Rugby League: a
pre-view and live coverage of the final of the Six Nations
between Wigan and St Helens. 12.45 and 4.20 too Hockey: the
semi-finals of the Heineken British championship - Cardiff Devils v
Peterborough Pirates and Durham Wasps v Murrayfield Racers.
1.00 News: 4.40 Final Score
5.10 News and weather
5.25 Regional News and sport. Wales (to 6.10): Wales on Saturday
5.25 Sat Tooned! Tony Robinson presents part two of the series on
cartoons from the Warner Bros studios in Hollywood
5.50 The Flying Doctors. Australian drama series starring Liz Blyth
and Robert Grubb as medics of the Flying Doctor service. Streamlined
efficiency is introduced into the Coopers Crossing postal service,
but at a price the small-town residents are unwilling to pay.
Meanwhile, Chris and Jack are contemplating what to do with the
legacy left in their charge. (Coefax) Wales: 6.10 Sat Tooned!
6.35 That's Showbusiness. Mike Smith hosts the fast-paced celebrity
entertainment quiz with team captains Kenny Everett and Gloria
Humphreys joined by singer and actress Tony Wilcock, entertainer
Victor Spinetti, EastEnders' Todd Carty and actress Sandra
Dickinson (Coefax)
7.05 You've Got to Be Jokin'. New series of anarchic sketches,
impersonations, audience participation and stand-up comedy with
newcomers Shane Richie, Annette Lee, George Marshall, Maddi
Cryer and Billy Pearce cobbled together from previous BBC talent
contests. Maddi Cryer recently finished a regular appearance in
the *Little and Large* show
7.35 Fast Friends. A lucky contestant has the chance to win a luxury
holiday with a little help from his or her specially made "friends" in
the fast and furious quiz hosted by the rotund comedian, Les
Dawson. (Coefax)
8.05 Perry Mason: The Case of the Lethal Lesson (1989). Raymond
Burr stars as the tenacious attorney in another gripping courtroom
drama. While teaching a course at his old law school, Perry is put in
the awkward and implausible position of having to defend one
student on a charge of murdering another, the son of a longtime
friend. The waters are even more muddied by the appearance of a
former girlfriend who is determined to do her bit. With Barbara
Hale, Brian Keith and William R. Moses. Directed by Christian
I. Nyby. (Coefax)
9.40 News with Martin Lewis. (Coefax) Sport and weather
10.00 Film: *The Eagle Has Landed* (1976). Michael Caine, Donald
Sutherland and Jenny Agutter join an elite cast in an action-
packed second world war story about a crack troop of
German paratroopers sent to England to kidnap Winston Churchill.
When Col Max Radl (Robert Duvall) learns that the prime minister is
to spend a couple of days in a deserted Norfolk village, the
temptation to try an assault proves too great. With Donald
Pleasence, Anthony Quayle and Nigel Hargrave. Adapted from the
novel by Jack Higgins and directed by John Gilling. (Coefax)
12.10am Barry Manilow: Big Fun On Swing Street. Barry Manilow sings
Latin with Kid Creole, jazz with Gerry Mulligan and Diane
Scurry and blues with Stanley Clarke and Phyllis Hyman (r)
1.00 Weather



A turn on the comedy-go-round: fresh young talent (7.05pm)

BBC 2

- 8.50 Open University: Maths - Area Games 7.15 Health Visiting and
the Family 7.40 Geology - Rock Textures 8.05 Bangkok: A City
Speaks 8.30 Invention is Not Enough 8.55 It's for You 9.20
Education - Literacy in Jamaica 9.45 Living Choices - Supporting
Systems 10.10 Meeting with Light 10.35 Open Forum Magazine
- News and Views on the CU 11.00 Multi-Cultural Education
- Living with Drought 12.15 The Romantic
Poets in the Alps 12.40 Statistics - Lines: Before and After 1.05
Organic Chemistry - Samples of Analysis 1.30 Modern Art -
Kirsten 1.55 Discovering 16th-century Strasbourg 2.20 Desert
Ecology
2.45 Mahabharat. Indian epic in 91 parts. In episode 45 Yudhishthira
is unhappy with Draupadi for having taunted Duryodhana in public.
In Hindi with English subtitles
3.25 Film: *Ruby Gentry* (1952, b/w). Romantic melodrama set against
the backdrop of a powerful southern family. Jennifer Jones stars as
Ruby, a fiery girl from the Carolina swamps who was brought up as
a boy. She falls for a local aristocrat (a youthful Charlton Heston) but
his family disapproves and their relationship is far from stable.
Eventually she takes her revenge... With Karl Malden, Tom Tully
and Bernard Phillips. Directed by King Vidor
4.45 Snooker: The Embassy World Professional Championship.
More green-ball action from the Crucible in Sheffield. Introduced
by David Vine and with commentary from Ted Lowe, Jack
Karnham and Clive Everton
7.20 News with Moira Stuart. Weather
7.35 How Wars Begin: Blomkamp's Wars. Third of six unscripted,
straight-to-camera lectures first delivered in 1977 - by the
celebrated British historian A.J.P. Taylor, who died last autumn. In
this programme he discusses the Prussian Chancellor Bismarck's
war against Austria in 1866 and the unexpected campaign in
France in 1870
8.05 The Civil War: A New Birth of Freedom.
CHOICE: In his book *Camera Lucida*, Roland Barthes saw that
all photography was about death, and that any reading of historical
photographs, in particular, carried what he calls "the defeat of
time in them: that is dead and that is going to die". The viewer is
left to speculate on the lives of the subjects before him or her, and
at the same time, to realise they are not and are not. In war
photography, the process becomes even more acute, reaching its
culmination with those photographs taken at the moment of death.
The American civil war was the first big war recorded by the
camera, the first modern war therefore. The surprise of this series
is how a programme so still - based almost entirely on black and
white photographs and the spoken word - can move so movingly
cinematic than so much of the rest of television. (Coefax)
9.05 Snooker: The Embassy World Professional Championship.
Further coverage from Sheffield on the eighth day of the
tournament. Players who reach the quarter-finals stand to win
£20,000, and among those bidding for that honour are
French Canadian Alain Robitoux and Englishman Tony Meo, who
are taking on the two favourites, Stephen Hendry and Steve Davis,
respectively
10.00 Film: *Camp de Thiaroye* (1987). Ousmane Sembène - a man who
has been called "the father of African cinema" - directed this fast-
paced second world war story set in Senegal. African troops
returning from European battlefields are stationed at Camp
Thiaroye, a bleak and hostile compound run by the French, while
they await honourable discharge and their back pay. Sergeant
Major Diatta, whose wife is French, befriends Captain Raymond -
the only French officer not prejudiced against the soldiers - but
conditions remain dire. The men rebel when they are conned out of
most of their pay and a massacre ensues. A co-production of
Senegal, Algeria and Tunisia starring Ibrahim Sane, Sijiri Bakaba
and Jean-Daniel Simon
12.30am Snooker: The Embassy World Professional Championship.
Last left of the day to Sheffield. Others involved in the second
round action include former champion Dennis Taylor, ageing
youngster Steve James, who will be hoping to become Stephen
Hendry's quarter-final opponent, and Tony Knowles, happy to be
back at the Crucible where he has three times reached the semi-
finals. Introduced by David Vine. Ends at 1.35



A scene in the film: Bryan Murray and Beryl Reid (8.00pm)

BBC 4

- 6.00 Comic Book 7.30 The People's Game (r) 8.00 Trans World
Sport
9.00 News summary followed by Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line
9.25 Sing and Swing. Vintage jazz from the performers of the
Thirties and Forties (r)
9.30 Same Differences. Magazine series on disabled matters (r).
(Teletext) 10.00 Images: The Pandol of Nature. A chronological
review of the history of photography (r)
10.30 Wagon Train (b/w). Fifties western series starring Ward Bond
11.30 World League of American Football. London Monarchs' return to
Wembley to take on the Montreal Machine
12.30 The Munchies. Movie Star Munster (b/w) (r)
1.00 Film: *Innocents in Paris* (1953, b/w). A good cast wasted in an
episodic comedy about the British abroad. With Alastair Sim,
Margaret Rutherford, Claire Bloom, Ronald Shiner, Laurence
Harvey and Jimmy Edwards. Directed by Gordon Pyke
2.45 Channel 4 Racing from Sandown Park. Live coverage of the
3.00, 3.30, 4.05 (Whitbread Gold Cup) and 4.40 races
5.05 Brookside Omnibus (r). (Teletext)
6.30 News and weather followed by Right to Reply. John Willis, CA's
deputy director of programmes, defends the banned series
7.00 Sound Stuff: The Rhythm Divine.
CHOICE: Disco was so anarchic that it can claim to have
spawned almost any pop movement since. The *Rhythm Divine*
tries to argue as much: it was about staying up all night, dancing
and being beautiful. So what's new? Commentary apart, this is a
fast-forward cultural and musical survey dominated by rapid
changes in nuances of style. New York paeonians (circa 1972)
distance themselves from the high-waisted, tapered biedermeier
and make necessary distinctions. Pale young men talk of the Euro
influence. Lots of four by four. Lots of Donna Summer. Turn up the
beats
8.00 The A-Z of Censorship: X and Y
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BBC 1

7.10 Open University 8.55 Playdays (r)
9.15 Articles of Faith: The Rev Dr Kenneth Stevenson discusses the role of baptism for the earliest Christians (r) 9.30 This is the Day: Physics Thompson talks to Tawno Olesky, the founder of an advice centre for African immigrants in London
10.00 When in France (r) Wales: See You Sunday 10.25 Portuguese (r) 10.50 Step Up to Wordpower (r)
11.40 Bazaar: Handy hints series (r) 12.05 Sign Extra: Making Their Mark: A day in the life of artist Mike Wilks, adapted for the hearing impaired
12.30 Country File: Michael Colles reports on the conflicting needs of coal and conservation. Wales: Farming in Wales 12.55 Weather
1.00 News followed by On the Record. Transport minister Malcolm Rifkind talks to Jonathan Dimbleby about the future of British Rail
2.00 EastEnders (r) (Coast)
3.00 Film: Genieville (r) 1953. Delightful comedy starring John Gargan and Dinah Sheridan as a veteran car enthusiast and his wife who take part in the London to London car rally in a 1904 two-seater Daimler. With Kenneth More and Kay Kendall. Directed by Henry Cornelius
4.20 Eurovision Song Contest Preview presented by Ken Bruce



Chopper aces: the Duke of York, Lt. Wayne Shadden (5.05pm)

5.05 HRH The Duke of York: Flight Commander HMS Campbelltown. CHOICE: The Duke of York is a full time career leaves the family for precious moments together. Flight Commander HMS Campbelltown is the Duke of York at sea, flying helicopters (Tm the pilot, Wayne is the observer). Moody filtered shots of seascapes and elegant guitar solos fill the programme. "Separation is something that happens to everybody, and everyone has a different way of dealing with it. In this case, behaviour aboard is distinguished by much straightforward blockiness, a fondness for cliché, and the result appears to be a remarkably uncomplicated world in which everyone has his place, the only bit being how to accommodate a member of the royal family, he being who he is, and protocol and all that. The strange, handsome life of the senior service gets the straight-faced treatment. (Coast)

5.55 Masterchef: Amateur cooking competition
6.25 News with Moira Stuart. (Coast) Weather
6.40 Songs of Praise from Belfast's Castle Court Shopping Centre. (Coast)

7.15 Butterflies. Carla Lane's bitter-sweet comedy from the Seventies starring Wendy Craig as Rita, a bored housewife (r) (Coast)
7.45 All Creatures Great and Small. Christopher Timothy, Robert Hardy and Peter Davison return in the classic veterinary series set in the Yorkshire Dales (r). (Coast)
8.35 Tonight at 8.30: The Astonished Heart starring Joan Collins. The story of a psychiatrist (John Alderton) who is ruled by sexual obsession as one of Coward's serious pieces. (Coast)
9.05 News with Mervyn Llewellyn. (Coast) Weather
9.20 That's Life presented by Eather Rantzen
10.00 Mastermind. The specialist subject are Venetian art 1450-1800, Field Marshal Lord Alton, the history of Scotland 1068-1329, and the Third Reich 1933-1945
10.30 Everyman. CHOICE: Everyman takes a timely and wary look at the media manipulations of the very flesh Rev Al Sharpton, the James Brown of New York preachers and inspiration for the Rev Bacon in Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities*. A lively feeling for the virtuosity in the disliking of all the contributors, for and against Sharpton, though none can match the preacher's silver tongue. "When there's racial victimisation in this city, I'm there," he says; "staring," say opponents. A Sharpton performance is something to behold - all delivery and attitude. The media find him quotable, master of the 30 second sound bite, and "good to cut to," as one observer succinctly puts it. The case against him emerges strongly, but all are agreed on his power: "Like a snake oil salesman, he knows how to get you into the tent!"

11.20 Walk the Talk. Continuing the series on successful management. Northern Ireland: Belfast A Control Zone 11.50 Walk the Talk 12.15 Mahabharat. Wales: Welsh TUC Conference 11.50 Walk the Talk 12.15 The Sky at Night 12.35 News headlines and weather
11.45 The Sky at Night. Patrick Moore is joined by Dr Donald Yeomans to discuss comets
12.05am Mahabharat (r) 12.45 Weather.

6.35 Open University: Discovering 18th century Strasbourg 7.00 Luminance and Spectroscopy 7.25 Calculus - Iteration and Convergence 7.50 Canal and Harbour Modelling 8.15 A Telescope in Space 8.40 Music - Harmony 8.05 Data Modelling The Wood from the Trees 9.30 Design - Assembly of Lories 9.55 Arts - Caspide 10.20 Biology Form and Function - Nerves 10.45 Maths - Area Games 11.10 Open Advice - Something for Everyone 11.35 Stars and Spectra
12.00 Regional Parliamentary programmes: Wales: Sign Extra 12.25 Animation Now: Northern Ireland: 1992 The European Challenge 12.30 Canal - Living Lakes East
12.40 Sunday Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.45 Motor Racing: Live coverage of the San Marino Grand Prix from Imola, Italy, with commentary by Murray Walker and James Hunt; 2.30 Squash: the final of the men's British open championship between Jahangir Khan and Jahangir Khan and the women's final between Lisa Ople and Sue Wright at Wembley. Introduced by Tony Gubba and Jonah Berrington; 3.00 Snooker: Quarter-finals of the Embassy world professional championship from the Crucible, Sheffield, with commentary by Ted Lowe, Jack Karnehm and Clive Everton; 4.00 Ice Hockey: final of the Helsinki British championship from Wembley Arena introduced by Barry Davies and Red Irwin
5.00 Rugby Special. Chris Rees introduces highlights from the National Sevens held at Bath. Wales: Rugby Special Northern Ireland: Rugby Special Northern Ireland
6.00 From Kowloon. In the aftermath of the Gulf war, producer Jim McDougall's documentary asks the questions nobody wanted to ask about nationalist divisions in Kuwait. Reunited and reinstated, privileged Kuwaiti families enjoy rights denied to Palestinian, Jordanian, exiled Iraqi and other Arab communities. Will the Kuwaiti government attempt reform of the wide-ranging inequalities inherent in the present system?
6.35 The Money Programme. Voltaire and George The Great Gamble. Can Voltaire repeat the success of the Beasts with its updated Golf? Tom Medlock reports on the company's attempts to withstand the Japanese competition for dominance in east and west Europe
7.15 The Last African Flying Boat. Battle award-winning documentary in which Alexander Fraser retraces the Imperial Airways route from Cairo to the Cape in a flying boat.
8.30 Grand Prix San Marino Grand Prix from Imola, Italy. This year's first European grand prix with commentary by Murray Walker and James Hunt



Unearthing a mole: Alec Guinness as George Smiley (8.05pm)

9.05 Thinker, Teller, Soldier, Spy. Episode one of Arthur Hopcraft's award-winning seven-part dramatisation of the John le Carré novel. Alec Guinness heads an all-star cast as Smiley, the retired intelligence officer, recommended to hunt down the British Secret Service. Bernard Hepton, Ian Richardson, Michael Aldridge and Terence Raby are the suspects (r). (Coast)
9.55 Snooker. The 1981 Embassy world championship. Further coverage of the second round including the match which should pit Jimmy White against Neil Foulds, from the Crucible, Sheffield. Commentary by Ted Lowe, Jack Karnehm and Clive Everton
12.00 Rapid. Exotic music series presented by Antoine de Caunes (r). Ends at 12.30am

ITV

8.00 TV-am. Includes, at 8.00, Frost on Sunday. There are highlights of David Frost's interview with the prime minister earlier in the week, and Alan Bate, MP, discussing the new council tax. Reviewing the newspapers are Carol Thatcher and Anthony Browne
9.25 The Disney Family Movie: 14 Going On 30 (1988). Part one of a comedy starring Patrick Duffy, Loretta Swit, Steve Eckholdt and Gabby Ogle. Through his genius friend's "growth acceleration" invention, 14-year-old Danny transforms himself into an adult and masquerades as his school's new headmaster. Directed by Paul Schneider. Part two is at the same time next week
10.15 The Littlest Hobo. Mike adventures with his current canine
10.45 Line. Peter White continues his look at transport for the disabled
11.00 Morning Worship from the Roman Catholic Chapel of Berkeley Castle near Thornbury in Gloucestershire
12.00 Visions. Nick Stuart and athlete Tessa Sanderson discuss the role of religion in politics and current affairs
12.30 LWT News Weekend
1.00 News and weather
1.10 Weldon. Brian Weldon interviews the leader of the Opposition, Neil Kinnock. Followed by The Day
2.05 Film: The Greatest Show on Earth (1952). Charlton Heston, Dorothy Lamour and James Stewart star in an Oscar-winning romp set amid the big-top adventures of a travelling circus troupe. Stewart is particularly well-cast as a clown with a mysterious past in this heady mix of romance, comedy, slapstick stunts, adventure and action. Directed by Cecil B. DeMille
4.55 Gazza - the Real Me. Paul Gascoigne went to the 1990 World Cup in Italy as a young man of 22 and returned a national hero. For the first time on television the injury-prone Gascoigne tells the story of his meteoric rise to celebrity status and talks about his background in northeast England and the people who influence him and his game
6.00 Bullseye. Dave and general knowledge game
6.30 News and weather 6.35 LWT News and weather
6.40 Highway. Last of the series with Sir Harry Secombe singing and watching in Knebworth, North Yorkshire
7.15 Watchdog. Taped sitcom starring Paul Brown and Emma Wray as star-crossed lovers Melvyn and Sandra (Oracle)
7.45 The Darling Buds of May. When the Green Woods Laugh. Fourth part of the superb comedy-drama series based on the novels by H.E. Bates and starring David Jason and Pam Ferris as the heads of the notorious Larkin family. Pop is hoping for a "perfect" ending between his daughter Marlene and the cultured Zed-Jones and former tax-inspector Cedric "Charlie" Charlton (Phil Frank). His hopes are nearly dashed, however, when the boys in blue arrive and charge him with indecent assault. (Oracle)
8.45 News and weather 9.00 LWT Weather
9.05 Jeeves and Wooster. Another F.G. Woodhouse tale brought to life by Hugh Laurie and the popular Bertie Wooster. Tonight Bertie Wooster is subjected to the match-making plans of his awesome aunt Agatha. (Oracle)
10.05 Spitting Image. The latex puppets return for more inter-mess satirical swipes at the famous

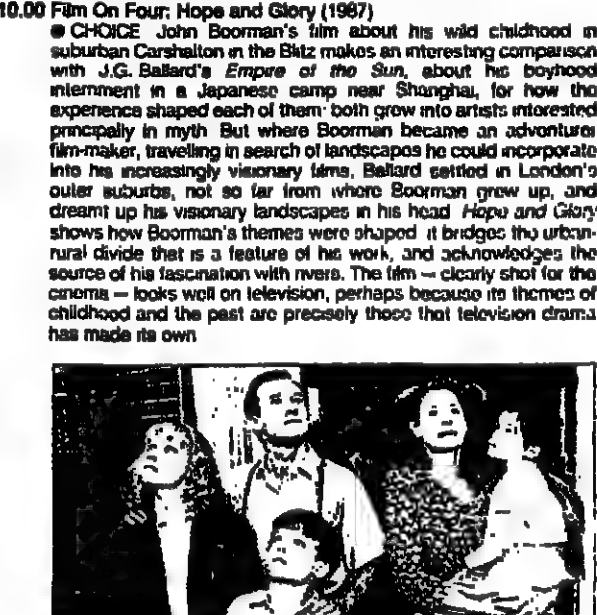


Four lonely people: Boland, Rees, Blake and Loe (10.35pm)

10.35 Singles. Return of the romantic sitcom starring Roger Rees, Judy Loe, Eamon Boland and Susan Blake as four lonely people who meet in a singles bar (r). (Oracle)
11.00 The Shape of the World. History and Earth. The first of a six-part documentary series unravelling the story of maps. (Oracle)
12.00am Golf - PGA Seniors Tournament 1991. Coverage from Florida featuring Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Lee Trevino and Jack Nicklaus in action
1.10 The TV Chart Show (r)
2.10 News Music. Celebrity interviews and music videos
3.10 Dennis. German police officer Dennis Gansel is back in the action in his unflappable valise. Tonight Gansel is in the air when Bertie is subjected to the match-making plans of his awesome aunt Agatha. (Oracle)
4.30 Pick of the Week. Larry Powell presents highlights of the best and most bizarre moments from regional television
4.50 Backstage. Behind the scenes of Hollywood
5.00 The Lawless Years. Tony Morrell is intimidated by the "mob" into running a dishonest dock on New York's waterfront during the Twenties
5.30 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Trans World Sport (r) 7.00 Eusebia's Castle 7.30 Footur 8.00 Sharkey and George 8.30 Betty's Bunch 8.55 California Raisin Show
9.25 Maudslayi: Swamy and Friends. Nine-year-old Swamy and his friends are in a state of panic over their forthcoming exams
10.00 A Week in Politics - Second Reading. Includes Bryan Gould, MP, on the new council tax
10.45 Dennis 11.00 Best That (r)
11.30 The Lone Ranger (b/w) Vintage western series 12.00 The Waltons 1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea (b/w) (r)
2.00 Film: The Strange Loves of Martha Ivers (1946, b/w). Brilliant example of film noir with Barbara Stanwyck, Kirk Douglas (in his first major role), Van Heflin and Lizabeth Scott. Stanwyck plays the evil protagonist who murdered her aunt as a child at the behest of her lover and was eventually blackmailed into marriage by the only witness, Douglas, who is now the district attorney. However, 18 years on, Stanwyck's former childhood sweetheart (Heflin) returns coincidentally to appeal to the DA for the release of Lizabeth Scott, wrongly jailed for the original crime. Directed by Lewis Meltstone
4.10 A Midsummer Night's Dream. A Dutch animation (r)
4.55 News summary and weather followed by The Nectar of Immortality. A documentary about a religious gathering of more than seven million Hindus on the banks of the River Ganges
5.30 Women's Soccer '91: Women's FA Cup Final. Highlights of Doncaster Belles hoping to retain their title against Millwall Lionesses at Tramex
6.30 The Wonder Years. Kevin (Fred Savage) faces more tragicomic teenage angst
7.00 Fragile Earth: Global Dumping Ground. CHOICE: In 1989 a government-sponsored commission predicted that if Taiwan continues to ravage its environment it will be uninhabitable within a decade. The pollution level is a result of Taiwan - and countries like it - agreeing to get rid of the toxic waste of more affluent nations, a profitable but highly suspiciously discarded US business armamented with a usable scrap in Taiwan poison the workers with lead and acid; fumes from scrap metal factories force locals to wear face masks. Taiwan's cities include such US government organisations as the army, the navy and the Bureau of Engineering. Global Dumping Ground, the result of a two year investigation, shows how the export and disposal of toxic waste has become big business operating in the margins of international law. Says one big US multi-million dollar exporter of toxic waste, "We're basically pioneers in the surplus chemical business." (Teletext)
7.55 The A-Z of Censorship: 2. The final instalment of the short censorship slot
8.00 Hard News. Includes The Times's media correspondent, Melinda Wittstock, on the British press's coverage of foreign news
8.30 A Triumph of Eagles. A documentary about the huge population of Atlantic fish eagles which proliferate about the Lough Lough and their system of co-existence with local fishermen (r)
9.00 Banned: The Last Word. A discussion on the issues raised by the recent banned season
10.00 Film On Four: Hope and Glory (1987)
CHOICE: John Boorman's film about his wild childhood in suburban Carlisle in the Blitz makes an interesting comparison with J.G. Ballard's *Empire of the Sun*, about the boyhood imprisonment in a Japanese camp near Shanghai, for how the experience shaped each of them: both grew into artists interested principally in myth. But where Boorman became an adventure filmmaker, travelling in search of landscapes he could incorporate into his increasingly visionary films, Ballard settled in London's outer suburbs, not so far from where Boorman grew up, and dreamt up his visionary landscapes in his head. Hope and Glory shows how Boorman's themes were shaped: it bridges the cultural divide that is a feature of his work, and acknowledges the source of his fascination with myth. The film - clearly shot for the cinema - looks well on television, perhaps because its themes of childhood and the past are precisely those that television drama has made its own



Autobiographical: John Boorman's film about the Blitz (10.00pm)

12.05am Did You Used to be R.D. Laing? A portrait of the popular psychiatrist, filmed during a series of lectures and workshops in Canada. Ends at 1.55am

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.30-1.00 Farringham Day 2.00 Mervyn Llewellyn 2.30 The Day After Tomorrow 3.00 The Day After Tomorrow 3.30 The Day After Tomorrow 4.00-4.30 Carole 4.30-5.00 The Day After Tomorrow 5.00-5.30 The Day After Tomorrow 5.30-6.00 The Day After Tomorrow 6.00-6.30 The Day After Tomorrow 6.30-7.00 The Day After Tomorrow 7.00-7.30 The Day After Tomorrow 7.30-8.00 The Day After Tomorrow 8.00-8.30 The Day After Tomorrow 8.30-9.00 The Day After Tomorrow 9.00-9.30 The Day After Tomorrow 9.30-10.00 The Day After Tomorrow 10.00-10.30 The Day After Tomorrow 10.30-11.00 The Day After Tomorrow 11.00-11.30 The Day After Tomorrow 11.30-12.00 The Day After Tomorrow 12.00-12.30 The Day After Tomorrow 12.30-1.00 The Day After Tomorrow

BORDER
As London except: 12.30-1.00 Gardening 1.00-1.30 The Day After Tomorrow 1.30-2.00 The Day After Tomorrow 2.00-2.30 The Day After Tomorrow 2.30-3.00 The Day After Tomorrow 3.00-3.30 The Day After Tomorrow 3.30-4.00 The Day After Tomorrow 4.00-4.30 The Day After Tomorrow 4.30-5.00 The Day After Tomorrow 5.00-5.30 The Day After Tomorrow 5.30-6.00 The Day After Tomorrow 6.00-6.30 The Day After Tomorrow 6.30-7.00 The Day After Tomorrow 7.00-7.30 The Day After Tomorrow 7.30-8.00 The Day After Tomorrow 8.00-8.30 The Day After Tomorrow 8.30-9.00 The Day After Tomorrow 9.00-9.30 The Day After Tomorrow 9.30-10.00 The Day After Tomorrow 10.00-10.30 The Day After Tomorrow 10.30-11.00 The Day After Tomorrow 11.00-11.30 The Day After Tomorrow 11.30-12.00 The Day After Tomorrow 12.00-12.30 The Day After Tomorrow 12.30-1.00 The Day After Tomorrow

CENTRAL
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GRANADA
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30 per cent of its properties in the G-band. Cleveland has none at all and many areas would be coloured entirely in yellow because their G-band properties number less than 10 per cent: Derbyshire, Durham, Hereford and Worcester, Humberside, Lancashire, Norfolk, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Tyne and Wear, West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside. Wales and Scotland have been banded with different valuations which are not comparable.

The decision to use seven bands was taken at last Thursday's cabinet meeting but Mr Heseltine decided to allow the work to go ahead to avoid any delay. Officials said yesterday that the information gathered would still be of value even if seven bands were retained; and if nine were used



management not politicians. "Guy's have taken the view that there are developments they need but they have inherited a system which, according to the managers, is not working very well and is running them up grave debts."

Harriet Harman, a Labour health spokesman, said that ministers were trying to wash their hands of the havoc wreaked by their chance.

Name/Address.....

**Wyeherley Close, Blackheath,
London.**

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Concise crossword page 11

BUSINESS

SATURDAY APRIL 27 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

MONEY

News Corp close to \$650m deal

THE News Corporation is reported to be selling nine American magazines for about \$650 million. It is understood documents are being drawn up for the sale to K-III Holdings, an American partnership controlled by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the management buyout specialist. KKR and News Corp would not confirm the deal.

According to *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, the sale includes *Soap Opera Digest*, *Soap Opera Weekly*, *New York Seventeen*, *Premiere*, *European Travel & Life*, *Automobile* and *New Woman*.

News Corp, whose British publications include *The Times*, will retain the women's fashion magazine *Mirabella* and the TV *Guide*, for which it paid \$2.2 billion.

Bluff disguise



Sir Michael Angus, chairman of Unilever, disguises his analytical approach to business behind a bluff, man of the people exterior. People often end up liking him, even though he has a reputation for being domineering. He talks to Gillian Bowditch. Page 23

Court backing

The government is backing a move by pension fund trustees to obtain a clear ruling on a controversial European Court of Justice judgment that occupational schemes should not discriminate between men and women. Page 22

Bank moans

There has been a surge in the number of complaints received by high street banks, mostly about charges, mistakes on statements and unsolicited mailshots. Page 27

Student debt



Banks are starting to clamp down on student overdrafts after government criticism that they were too free with their marketing of credit. Many students begin their working lives deeply in debt. Page 27

Health costs

Subscriptions to private medical insurance schemes could go up by 20 per cent as a result of higher medical inflation and a growing number of claims, medical insurers have warned. Page 28

Property loss

Two investors have complained to the DTI about the performance of the Target Property Fund, now owned by Equity & Law. The fund made a loss on 13 out of the 18 properties sold in the Eighties. Page 29

Trust warning

Investors buying unit trusts with holdings in property, warrants, or futures and options will have to be warned of the risks by salesmen, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation said this week. Page 29

DTI wants fraudulent insurance firm wound up

By TONY HETHERINGTON

THE trade and industry department (DTI) is to petition the High Court for an order to wind up Performance Car Warranty, a fraudulent mechanical breakdown insurance business that was exposed in Weekend Money last October.

The case, which will be heard next Wednesday, follows a confidential investigation by the DTI under Section 447 of the Companies Act.

Performance Car Warranty sold policies to owners of expensive cars, such as Porsches. If the cars broke down during the policy term the insurers would meet the repair bills. The investigation established,

however, that the policies, which cost about £300 each, were not underwritten by any legitimate insurance company. Performance Car Warranty had pocketed the premiums and, in at least some cases, had issued false policy documents in the name of the respectable National Insurance Guarantee Corporation.

The DTI said that Performance Car Warranty had no authority to issue insurance policies. All British insurers must be vetted and approved by the trade department and submit to checks to ensure that they remain solvent. Performance Car Warranty, officials say, is insolvent. The petition to wind up the

company in the public interest leaves open the question of the true identity of the man behind it. Records at Companies House name the sole director of the business as Frank Reid.

Weekend Money, however, identified the man as Frank Reid, a slightly different name under which he was made bankrupt in 1986.

Reid was then a director of another car breakdown insurance company, Fleet Motor Warranties. He resigned from the board after being declared bankrupt. He emerged, however, in 1987, as a director of another company, Auto Marketing Consultants, now spell-

ing his name Reid. Auto Marketing Consultants merged with Fleet Motor Warranties, with the result that Reid — now calling himself Reid — was back on the board of his old business under a false name.

Further evidence that the two men are the same is the fact that they share the same live-in girlfriend, Caroline Elliott. Miss Elliott was a director of Fleet Motor Warranties and lived with Reid in a flat in Wembley. This address is the one given by Reid when he was made bankrupt.

The electoral register for Maidenhead, Berkshire, shows that Elliott now lives there in a modern

£250,000 house. The only other occupant of the house is the re-named Frank Reid.

It is an offence to act as a company director while still an undischarged bankrupt, as is using a false name on documents submitted to Companies House. The trade department would not say this week whether proceedings would be brought.

A spokesman said: "The usual enquiries will be made by the official receiver, who has a duty to report on all liquidations to the secretary of state on whether there has been misconduct which might warrant further steps."

Fraud office probes loss in NHL offshoot

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Serious Fraud Office is investigating a £3.5 million fraud suffered by National Home Loans, the mortgage lender.

The fraud was written off as an extraordinary item in the group's figures for the six months to end-March. At the same time, NHL saw a tenfold increase in bad debts on mortgages to £11.5 million, repossessing some 1,000 homes.

NHL suffered the fraud in a joint venture it established with Castlegate, a financial services group. Castlegate went into creditors' voluntary liquidation last December.

The fraud office raided Castlegate's offices and removed records which it is working through with a team of senior London accountants. Castlegate's liquidators have been told the investigation will continue at least until October.

Last year, NHL used Nightingale Finance, a subsidiary, to establish a consumer lending joint venture with Castlegate. Nightingale provided Castlegate, which was not regulated by the Financial Services Act, with money to lend on second mortgages.

Radford & Sons, the Southampton accountant appointed as liquidator to Castlegate, said it had not been given access to the company's records by the fraud office. Sandy Williams,

one of the accountants working on the liquidation, said she believed Castlegate had a surplus over liabilities. National Westminster Bank is also one of Castlegate's creditors.

Meanwhile, NHL has confirmed that it takes legal action against lenders who fall more than three months into arrears. "Building societies tend to be more charitable than they ought," Ken Lewis, the housing finance director, said. "Repossession is a decision for the courts."

Mr Lewis said the group had a conservative policy on provisions. "We take a pessimistic view when looking at an account," he said. "So the provision is a worse case estimate."

Kevin Milner, the chief executive, said the company had taken an "aggressive

stance" on arrears last year, but had softened its approach now since interest rates had started to fall.

John Darby, NHL chairman, denied the company had a poorer quality loan book than other mortgage companies. "I would say we have a better class of borrower, since we do not lend to first-time buyers," he said.

NHL's provisions against its £3.2 billion home loan book rose more than ten times to £11.5 million in the half year, even though the company took out insurance policies with Sun Alliance on loans of more than 75 per cent of a property's value.

The company is increasing its profit margin in the second half of the year by keeping its loan rate high. NHL's main mortgage rate is still 14.95 per cent, compared to 13.75 per cent at most building societies. It plans to reduce the rate next week, but will still be 1 percentage point higher than the societies.

NHL was also hit by bad debts in its leasing business, since it financed office equipment to International Leisure Group, the collapsed tour operator.

In all the group suffered a bad debt provision of £16.3 million, up from £800,000 last year. This out pre-tax profits by 35 per cent to £10.1 million. The interim dividend is held at 3.75p



Darby: no first-timers



Chis up: an optimistic President de Klerk said yesterday that South Africa was undergoing fundamental changes and was ready to restore trading links with the rest of the world. He told the CBI: "We want you to profit by what is happening."

A hard line on defaulters

By JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH borrowers are losing their homes at a faster rate than ever before and National Home Loans is one of the keenest repossessors, it was claimed this week.

The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (Nacab), with 709 main branches throughout Britain, said NHL was quick to respond when its borrowers fell behind with their repayments.

The so-called centralised lenders, of which NHL was the first, are often criticised for their anonymity — lacking branches where customers can

discuss their problems face-to-face. "Too much was lent at too high a rate," Jean Eaglesham of the Consumers Association, said. "Now, centralised lenders are going in very very fast after the initial default, even when a borrower has missed just one payment."

Ian Darby of John Charcol, an independent mortgage broker, says the high level of repossessions presents a serious problem. "While we are all grateful for four or five base rate cuts, a lot of the damage has already been done. Peripheral debts start building up on

credit cards and borrowers are just left with a bigger debt."

Simon Tyler, sales director at Chase de Vere Home Loans, said NHL built its reputation on non-status loans. "At first, all the centralised lenders wanted was a credit check and valuation. Later on, they became even more liberal, and didn't even want to hear from a previous lender whether the client had paid their mortgage or not. NHL was the start of a style and has been very successful in terms of market share. Now, they are all being hit hard."

Clayform axes final dividend

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Clayform, the property company, were unchanged at 53p despite the company reporting losses of £54 million for last year and passing the final dividend. With no final, the total distribution stays at 2p (10p).

The greatest damage stemmed from Clayform's development portfolio.

The fall in value of four developments in particular required a provision of £32 million, taken as an exceptional item. But the value of Clayform's investment portfolio has also been falling, including the shops Clayform acquired when it took over Stead & Simpson, the shoe retailer, for £125 million.

The fall in value was taken as a £16 million extraordinary

item, of which £11 million was attributable to the Stead properties. Net assets were halved to £75.8 million, prompting a fall in net assets per share from 410p to 201p.

Bryan Burietson, chairman, was still pleased with the acquisition, which he believes is surviving the recession better than many other forms of property.

Clayform's interest charges doubled to £16.8 million after the acquisition. Largely as a result, a pre-tax and pre-exceptional profit of £18 million for 1989 turned into a £7.6 million loss. The company finished the year with net borrowings of £106 million, but this has fallen to £85 million. The company has gearing of 127 per cent.

McAlpine seeks to raise £39m

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE relationship between Alfred McAlpine, the British contractor, and Lyonnaise des Eaux-Dumez, the French conglomerate, will become closer after a £39 million rights issue.

Lyonnaise des Eaux-Dumez will acquire 3.2 million shares in all paid form from the McAlpine family trust, as well as taking up its existing entitlement. As a result the McAlpine family's stake will drop to 19.6 per cent, while the French company will hold the 12 per cent maximum agreed when it bought into McAlpine 16 months ago.

The new shares will be issued at 225p on the basis of one new share for every two already held. McAlpine's shares fell 28p to 258p after

the rights issue was announced.

Graeme Odgers, McAlpine's chief executive, said the rights issue aimed to reduce the company's gearing from 61 per cent. "Borrowings are well under control, but are too high for comfort within the context of the current situation," he said.

Only two months ago, McAlpine reported pre-tax profits down 61 per cent at £2.2 million and a halving in the final dividend to 5.8p. Mr Odgers said the company intended to pay an unchanged interim dividend of 4.5p, but that the size of the final would take into account the group's performance for the year.

Temps, page 24

American output falls again

US isolated on interest rate front

From SUSAN ELLICOTT in WASHINGTON

THE Bush administration found some support yesterday for its struggling campaign to boost world growth with lower interest rates in reports that America had suffered two consecutive quarterly declines in gross national product for the first time since 1982.

But the call for easier credit faced opposition from Britain and Germany as financial policy-makers from the leading industrialised nations prepared to meet over the weekend.

The commerce department said America's recession deepened in the first three months as GNP, or the total output of goods and services, shrank at an annual rate of 2.8 per cent, against 1.6 per cent between October and December last year. Consumer spending also fell for the second quarter in a row.

The reports came a day after President Bush called for interest rates to go "down a little bit" to initiate a rebound before his likely bid for re-election begins.

America is likely to be the only member of the Group of Seven to press for a co-ordinated cut in interest rates.

The Federal Reserve has ignored hints from the Treasury for easier credit, while a European tour by Nicholas Brady, the treasury secretary, and one to Japan by David Mulford, the under-secretary for international affairs, found little welcome for the American campaign.

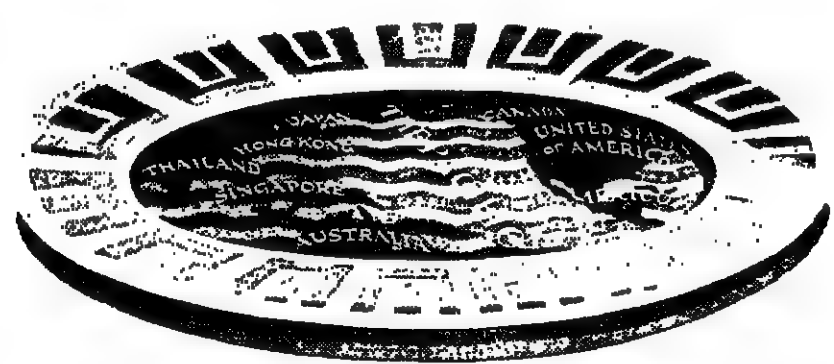
Karl Otto Pöhl, president of the Bundesbank, said Germany would resist calls from America to trim interest rates as economic policy-makers concentrate on keeping a lid on inflation. Britain, too, has said it is not ready to relax.

America's prodding therefore is unlikely to yield more than a linguistic compromise in a joint communiqué expected to be released by the G7 tomorrow evening. The wording will probably encourage countries to promote easier credit and growth-oriented policies. But the meeting coincides with the biggest divergence in members' economic cycles for several years and officials have been mumbling about low points in co-operation among the seven.

As America shows some evidence of being over the worst of a recession, Britain and Canada remain burdened by rising unemployment and concerns about inflation. Japan and Germany are growing, although Bonn is fighting to absorb the costs of unification and the modernisation of former East Germany. Italy and France are expanding, too, but at a slower rate.

Before the G7 meeting, Mr Mulford said the outlook for the world economy contained a number of encouraging signs, including a likely recovery in America this year. But he stressed that real interest rates remained high worldwide and aggregate G7 economic activity was slowing considerably. "Major countries will need to review the policies which could be pursued to promote lower real interest rates and a growing world economy," he said.

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Toothpaste salesman's ring of confidence

BUSINESS PROFILE

By GILLIAN BOWEN

Sir Michael Angus

The chairman of Unilever has a reputation for being a bully. He also makes an ideal dinner guest

When Sir Michael Angus, chairman of Unilever, the largest consumer products company in the world, describes himself as "a toothpaste salesman", he is not indulging in false modesty. He is describing his love of brands.

The man who runs the multinational group that sold £23 billion worth of cosmetics, food, detergents and oils last year is not given to underestimating his own talents or achievements.

He is a pragmatist and a politician, a man in control of an empire that stretches from Australia to Zimbabwe. He is self-assured and admits to avoiding situations that would make him unhappy or disturbed.

Alistair Grant, chairman of Argill, the supermarket group, and a former Unilever employee, describes Sir Michael as a man of long views and large ideas.

Socially, Sir Michael is an affable man, at ease in almost any company. He is an entertaining conversationalist with a strong sense of humour.

These attributes, plus his love of good food and wine, would make him an ideal dinner guest. He enjoys socialising. His drinking friends include Lord King, Cecil Parkinson and Lord Sarnley.

Cob Stenham, chairman of Wiggins Teape Appleton, the paper group, and a former finance director of Unilever, says of Sir Michael: "He is very, very bright. He is also hugely amusing, almost improbably so. If a colleague has made a mess of a situation, his description can be very funny. It's not so funny if you are the colleague. He is difficult to work for but extremely stimulating."

Sir Michael is in the habit of presenting himself as a bluff man of the people, an image that his broad girth, bluntness and open, friendly face support. His approach to business, however, is analytical. Within Unilever he has a reputation for being a bully. His colleagues respect him but if they do not stand up for themselves, they are unlikely to go far. Generally, he is not seen as a lovable man, but those who come to know him well end up liking him.

In spite of his reputation, Sir Michael cannot be an autocrat. The structure of Unilever's board, stemming from its Anglo-Dutch roots in

the Thirties, when Lever Brothers merged with Unilever, means that at the top of the group is a triumvirate: the special committee, comprising two chairmen, one Dutch and one British, and a third man. It is a set-up that a chairman with less confidence would not enjoy. But Sir Michael likes the camaraderie of joint decision making.

Flora Majors, the Dutch chairman of Unilever, is Sir Michael's alter ego. "Majors is the opposite of me. If it wasn't for business I doubt we would see each other, although we get on very well. He is extremely intellectual and has a great interest in old languages and history and things I find very dry. I am more intuitive. I quite like a drink in a pub occasionally but I couldn't see old Majors doing that."

Sir Michael is a Unilever man through and through, having joined the group in 1954 as a management trainee. Consequently, he knows the business inside out: no mean achievement as the group has four divisions, each as big as a large quoted company and each jam-packed with brand names ranging from Elizabeth Arden cosmetics and Cornetto ice-cream to Brooke Bond tea, Flora margarine, Surf washing powder and John Fry Bantons pies. The first brand he managed was SR toothpaste. He still uses it.

In addition to possessing the right background for a Unilever chairman — sound grammar school education coupled with a reasonable degree in mathematics and a good national service — Sir Michael had the guts and the political clout it took to climb to the top. He is considered to

be the brightest mind within Unilever, with the possible exception of Majors, but rivals point out that the group tends to go in for home-spun management.

Sir Michael does not believe he has lost out by being a one-company man. "Unilever is a business in which you can change your job and role as dramatically as going to another employer."

There has never been a time when he has seriously considered leaving Unilever. "When I joined, in 1954, most people expected to stay with one company for the rest of their lives. I was in my thirties when the job offers started floating around and I began to realise there were possibilities of leaving, but I wasn't tempted."

The job offers have been coming thick and fast in the past year. Sir Michael retired from Unilever in a year, when he reached 62, the age at which all Unilever directors must quit. He has agreed to become a non-executive chairman of another British company and last week was nominated as deputy president of the

Confederation of British Industry. He is expected to take over as president of the CBI in May 1992, when he leaves Unilever.

Sir Michael will probably be best remembered for taking the group to joint number one in the cosmetics and perfumes market, in spite of intense competition, and for turning round Unilever's one-time ailing American subsidiary.

The challenge of righting the American business is the one he has enjoyed most and the job that prepared him directly for the chairmanship. When he returned from Amer-

ica in 1984, after four years, he was appointed third man to the special committee.

"I asked for the American job," he says. "I told the board there was only one way the problem was going to be solved. I was going to go over and fix it." Colleagues say that his ambition is driven by a desire for power. In addition to his undoubted ability and the luck that smooths the path of everyone who has ever made it to the top, Sir Michael is the shrewdest of politicians. Indeed, had it not been for three-and-a-half years' national service, there is a strong chance he could have made it to the top echelons of the Conservative party.

He is good friend, Cecil Parkinson, a former Tory party chairman, believes Sir Michael would have made a good politician. "He is one of the best after-dinner speakers I have ever heard," he says. "He's good company and very easy to be with. He lacks pretentiousness."

Mr Parkinson says that along with himself and Norman Tebbit, Sir Michael founded the Conservative Political Centre in Hemel Hempstead in the Sixties. The three were close friends and Mr Parkinson believes Sir Michael could have emulated himself or Norman Tebbit by becoming Conservative party chairman had he entered politics.

Sir Michael describes himself as "an unambitious Tory", although he admits that his family was lower-middle class. "I had a belief in the marketplace and in a competitive society and a detestation of a bureaucratic society."

Friends say his politics are to the right of the Conservative party. He likes the company of politicians and admits, "I am more tolerant of naked ambition than most people." He was active politically at Bristol University, where he completed a BSc in mathematics.

He has not met John Major, a situation that is soon to be rectified, but it is likely that he will get on well with the prime minister: they share a certain classlessness. For the former prime minister, Sir Michael has nothing but praise. "What I liked about Mr Thatcher was her great power as a change agent," he says. "During the decade she was in power she fundamentally changed attitudes. Britain was



Rural roots: Sir Michael and Lady Angus on their estate in Gloucestershire, where they grew up and later settled

becoming an anti-business country.

"If you did well in business people wondered if you had your finger in the till," he believes that Britain may have seen the worst of the recession but says he is not a natural optimist. "I am cautious and I like to have a contingency plan. If you make a mistake in a business of this size it can be like crashing an oil tanker."

He admits to having made mistakes over the years, notably when products have failed, but he says none have been in the oil tanker league.

"If I had made the big error I wouldn't be here. Management isn't about making the right decision, it's about making a decision and getting it right. My wife would probably say I am a pessimist."

His wife does not describe him so. Lady Eileen Angus, whom he married at the age of 22, says they have spent 40 interesting years together.

"His sense of humour is quick but not unkind. It's almost American, a bit off-beat. He's very sure of himself, a wise person and a diplomat. We are closer than most families are nowadays and his

children rely on him for advice and help."

He has three children and seven grandchildren. Barbara, his daughter, lives close to his Gloucestershire home with her five sons. His eldest son, Simon, runs a garage business in the same vicinity. Nicholas, his second son, works for MB Caradon, formerly Metal Box.

Sir Michael is the eldest of three and was brought up in Rhodesia and the south of England. His father trained as an optician and had a strong urge to travel. During the war, the family was evacuated to Stroud, Gloucestershire, and Sir Michael was educated at Marlborough grammar school. The couple met in Stroud and have settled close to their childhood roots.

During the week Sir Michael lives in London and he has recently bought a house in southern France.

"I don't really like people like me very much," he says.

"I like people who are committed to the countryside. I'm slightly suspicious of those who only go there for the weekend."

Lady Angus keeps an array of animals, including a dog, half a dozen cats, 20 goats, ducks, peacocks, chickens, guinea fowl and a pig called Josephine. "She's a Gloucester Old Spot, a rare breed," says Sir Michael.

"We bought her to breed piglets but she has been on two honeymoons and there have been no piglets, so we are discovering why she is a rare breed." But it is unlikely that Josephine will end up in a Walls packet, even if it is a Unilever brand.

In addition to his love of France and the countryside, Sir Michael is well known as a connoisseur of wine. His cellar boasts 3,000 bottles.

"It's very worrying when you get to my age. You have to become actuarially acute when buying wine to lay

down. I don't want to leave these wines to my children. They would never appreciate it properly."

He enjoys the good life and says he has the slight weakness of over-indulgence, although he believes obstinacy might be more of a fault. "In my early life there was a hint of arrogance but I think I've got it under control. I lose my temper very occasionally."

Sir Michael has never been a worrier and feels guilty about not suffering from stress. Close friends say, however, that he does become extremely worried if he loses control of a situation, although he conceals his anxieties well.

Religion has not played an important part in his life but he says he worries about it more as he grows older.

"I suppose I'm a casual Church of England follower. I would find it hard to justify my casual Christianity because I have never intellectually thought it through. I have an awful feeling that if I did I would become disturbed, and I have a tendency to avoid situations which would make me unhappy."

Hoechst

Invitation to the Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held at 10 a. m. on Tuesday, 4th June 1991, at the Jahrhunderthalle Hoechst, Frankfurt am Main

Agenda

1. Presentation of the approved annual financial statements, the Group financial statements, and the summarized management reports of Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft and the Group for the financial year 1990, together with the report of the Supervisory Board
2. Allocation of the profit available for dividend
It is proposed to pay a dividend of DM 13.- per share of DM 50.- nominal for the financial year 1990.
3. Ratification of the actions of the Board of Management for 1990
4. Ratification of the actions of the Supervisory Board for 1990
5. Authorized capital
6. Approval of a profit-and-loss transfer agreement
7. Amendment to Art. 13 of the Articles of Association
8. Election of auditors for the financial year 1991

The full agenda, including the proposed resolutions, is contained in the Bundesanzeiger no. 80 of 27th April 1991.

Shareholders wishing to be present and to vote at the Meeting must comply with Article 14 of the Articles of Association and deposit their share certificates during usual business hours by Tuesday, 28th May 1991, at the latest until after the Meeting, at one of the depositaries listed in the Bundesanzeiger no. 80 of 27th April 1991, or, in the United Kingdom, at the offices of

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.
1 Finsbury Avenue
London EC2M 2PA

Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft
Frankfurt am Main, April 1991

Guinness Mahon seeks £30m loan

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GUINNESS Mahon, the merchant bank, has been forced to ask for an emergency £30 million bridging loan from Bank of Yokohama, of Japan, its controlling shareholder. The money is needed to fill a shortfall in the bank's capital while it raises £49.3 million through a rights issue.

Guinness Mahon has confirmed a loss of £35.5 million in the six months to end-March due to heavy bad debt provisions. The rights issue will restore the bank's capital, which has been weakened by the loss. Bank of Yokohama, which owns 65 per cent of the shares, has agreed to take up its share of the issue, and to subunderwrite the remainder. The Japanese bank is making the bridging loan at the favourable rate of only 0.3 of a percentage point above the London inter-bank rate.

Guinness is offering shareholders seven new shares for every four held at 44p each. This compares with the 146p the Bank of Yokohama paid for its original stake.

The merchant bank incurred bad debt provisions of around £30 million in the half year. These included £7 million against its leasing division, £3 million against its property lending, and £3 million in its Irish subsidiary. The bank also lent £5 million to Polly Peck International, the trading company that went into administration last year.

The provisions were set after a team from Bank of Yokohama examined Guinness's loan book. Geoffrey Bell, chairman, says the Japanese bank is now playing a more active role in Guinness's lending decisions and is seconding executives to work in the bank. Guinness is closing its main leasing business and reducing its loan portfolio.

The losses have also precipitated a shake-up in the boardroom. Mr Bell is stepping down to become non-executive chairman, while David Potter, from Midland Montagu, has become chief executive. Takaki Shinozaki, from Bank of Yokohama's New York office, is to be deputy chairman.

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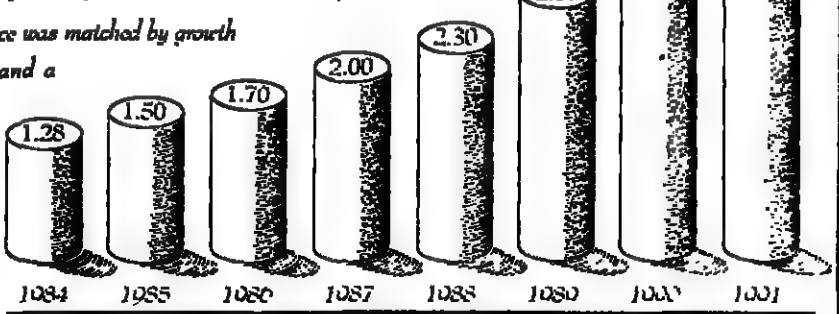
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Watson & Philip sets its sights on AF

By Gillian Bowditch

WATSON & Philip, the Dundee foodstuffs supplier, has taken its long-awaited step south with the planned acquisition of Amalgamated Foods for £35.5 million.

The deal, which requires shareholders' approval, will involve the allotment of W&P shares. AF shareholders will receive W&P shares worth £21.8 million, plus cash from the placing of a further block of W&P shares for £13.7 million.

In addition, W&P is raising £11.2 million, also via a placing, to develop the combined group. This placing is not conditional on the acquisition going ahead.

The total £24.9 million placing is at 262p a share, a 5.4 per cent discount to Thursday's closing price, and will be offered to shareholders on a three-for-five basis. The new shares will be eligible for a forecast interim dividend of 4p (3.1p last time). W&P shares fell 1p to 276p.

Mr Macpherson, W&P's chairman, says the merger will give the group economies of scale in purchasing power, marketing and technology.

AF, which made profits of £5.4 million on sales of £175 million last year, was formed in 1982 by a buyout from Linford Holdings. Ronald Jacques, non-executive director of W&P, is the main shareholder in AF and will be non-executive deputy chairman of the enlarged group.

Alfred McAlpine enjoys the wonders of equity capital

WHAT a wonderful commodity equity capital is. Only a few months ago, Graeme Odgers, Alfred McAlpine's new chief executive, was defending £39 million of provisions with that special low-key enthusiasm that incoming management reserves for such occasions.

Now Mr Odgers is back, launching a one-for-two rights issue aimed at raising - wait for it - £39 million of capital. But as those who struggle to cover the construction sector at the moment know only too well, any resemblance between rights issue proceeds and past provisions is purely coincidental.

A battle-weary sector appeared unimpressed, or was it uninterested? McAlpine's shares had fallen 21p to 286p ahead of the announcement and fell a further 28p on confirmation of what the market had spent the first four days of the week speculating. At 258p, the shares closed modestly adrift of a theoretical ex-rights price of 265p.

As well as consigning past mistakes to history, the rights issue reduces the influence of the McAlpine family. Lyonaise des Eaux-Dumetz, the French company, will buy 3.2 million nil-paid shares from the McAlpine family trust, increasing the French stake to the agreed maximum of 12 per cent and reducing the McAlpine family interest from 25.6 per cent to 19.6 per cent.

Also on the way down is gearing, which falls from about 61 per cent - a level Mr Odgers feels uncomfortable



Back with £39m issue: Graeme Odgers of McAlpine

with in the current market - to nearer 25 per cent.

McAlpine's ace is its relationship with the French group, but Mr Odgers admits this relationship is more potential than actual at the moment. In the meantime, the prospects for McAlpine look as difficult as they are for all construction companies.

At 258p, the shares are on

an adjusted price/earnings multiple of 14-15 and, once again, should not be chased higher.

NHL

LIKE the building societies it competes against, National Home Loans has discovered that diversification can be a painful process.

In the six months to the end

of March, NHL made bad debt provisions of £11.5 million against its £32 billion mortgage book. This is a ten-fold increase from the previous year, but still only represents a 0.4 per cent default rate.

The company's newer subsidiaries were harder hit. The leasing, business loans and consumer loans businesses have assets of only £303 million, but had to write off £8.3 million in provisions.

These included a loss in the collapsed ILG, and the £3.5 million loss in the fraud at NHL's consumer loan arm. This brings the rate of default to a hefty 2.7 per cent, showing NHL should stick to its core business in a recession.

The increase in provisions reduced the group's profits by 35 per cent to £10.1 million in the six months to end-March. Things would have been worse without a surprising rise in profits from the company's securitisation issues, from £1.5 million to £8.5 million.

The second half of NHL's year should be more revealing since its lending margins have soared since the base rate started falling. It is still charging homeowners 14.95 per cent, with plans at the beginning of May and June.

Despite this, profits for the full year may reach only £26 million, down from £30.2 million. This puts the shares, at 133p, on a p/e ratio of 11. The yield of 9 per cent is attractive, but there are better recovery prospects elsewhere in the financial sector.

Slingsby profits fall 2%

PRE-TAX profits at HC Slingsby, the truck and ladder maker, fell by 2 per cent from £505,000 to £496,000 during the year to end-December.

A final 5.5p dividend makes an unchanged 7.5p total. Earnings were 33p (34.9p).

JO Walker drops

JO Walker & Co, the timber importer, made a pre-tax loss of £36,342 in the year to end-December (£56,298 profit). Turnover was £15.1 million (£15.7 million); the loss per share was 3.8p (5p earnings) and the final dividend is 2p, making 2.67p (4p).

Final payout

Downie & Holdings, which passed its interim dividend, recommends a 1p final, against a single dividend of 0.5p last time. Pre-tax profits were £633,693 (£542,890), and earnings were 3.19p (2.21p).

Clayton ahead

Clayton, Son & Co (Holdings) made £543,000 pre-tax profit (£540,000) in the year to end-December, on turnover of £17.4 million (£16 million). Earnings per share are 13.8p (12.6p). The final dividend is held at 9.3p, making 11.8p (11.5p) for the year.

Trust assets rise

Investors Capital Trust net assets a share rose 25 pence to 113.9p in the six months to end-March. A second quarterly dividend of 1.25p makes 2.5p for the first half (2.375p). Pre-tax revenue was £8.58 million (£7.92 million).

Further drop in US output depresses prices

ATTEMPTS by the equity market to maintain an early lead were scuppered by a set of gloomy figures from the United States, showing a further drop in output. The news sent prices in London into reverse as the two-week account ended. A hesitant start on Wall Street also took its toll.

The FT-SE 100 index, up more than 5 points early on, finished 10.8 lower at 2,471.3. The FT 30 index shed 5.6 to 1,938.3. But trading remained thin with Smith New Court

and Cazenove, two leading securities houses, both squaring positions before their financial year-end. A total of 338 million shares changed hands.

Mondays sees the start of a three-week account, which includes two bank holidays. Dealers are pessimistic on the short-term outlook and would like to see a large takeover bid to boost demand.

Government securities saw losses of £4 extended to almost £1 at the longer end as the American GNP figures

STOCK MARKET

were digested.

Shares in Alfred McAlpine, the construction group, fell 28p to 258p after the group asked shareholders for £38 million by way of a rights issue on the basis of one-for-two at 225p. The group wants the money to offset debts that are forecast to reach £90 million by the year end. The French group Lyonaise des Eaux-Dumetz intends to double its holding to 12 per cent.

Guthrie & Mahon, the merchant bank, is raising almost £50 million by a rights issue to cover provisions against bad debts. The group has announced losses of £35 million and a cut in the dividend. It has issued a warning that it could be some time before profitability is restored. The shares marked time at 45p after falling sharply last week. Water shares shrugged off some of the weakness stem-

ming from the unbundling of the water package before the suspension in trading on July 12. The sector has fallen sharply in the last week with foreign investors worried by the uncertain political outlook and so unwinding their positions before the July deadline. The water package jumped £85 to £2,858, with Smith New Court still optimistic about the sector.

There were also rises for Aspland, 6p to 286p, Northumbrian, 4p to 318p, North West, 4p to 289p, Severn

Trent, 6p to 272p, Southern, 7p to 268p, South West, 4p to 290p, Thames, 3p to 306p, Welsh, 3p to 324p, Wessex, 1p to 357p, and Yorkshire, 8p to 308p.

Land Securities, the property developer, fell 14p to 515p. Adam Murray, an analyst at Smith New Court, says that Land Securities may report in a few weeks that its net asset value is 680p a share. But that could be 100p lower in a year's time.

MICHAEL CLARK

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit	Offer	Change	Yld	Unit	Offer	Change	Yld	Unit	Offer	Change	Yld	Unit	Offer	Change	Yld
ATLANTIC LIFE INSURANCE CO. of New York, London 821V 42E															
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1990 - a year of unexpected world turbulence

*Extracts from address by ICI Chairman Sir Denys Henderson
at the Annual General Meeting of Imperial Chemical Industries PLC
on April 26th 1991*

NINETEEN-NINETY was a year of sharply contrasting halves — reasonable growth in the first six months, followed by a serious decline in most economies of the western world. This was particularly acute in the UK, North America and Australia. If I remind you that Eastern Europe descended rapidly into political and financial turmoil, that much of Latin America continued to face harsh economic conditions, that many of our important customer industries (such as housing, construction, automobiles, textiles and consumer goods) slumped badly, and that in August the invasion of Kuwait resulted in drastic oil price increases — then I may justifiably describe 1990 as a year of unexpected turbulence worldwide. That was certainly true for the chemical industry, and ICI, despite its far-reaching structural changes in the 1980s, could not escape these dramatic developments.

Our 1990 pre-tax profits were well down on the record figures of 1989 but, at just under £1.0 billion, they remain substantial and much in line with most of our international competitors, who faced similar problems.

Nevertheless, they were disappointing, even allowing for the difficult trading climate. Some of our businesses performed very creditably, but a number of others were much less robust than we would have wished. We are therefore taking action to improve their performance through restructuring. This will include some divestments, further cost reductions and substantial reorganisation. You can be absolutely sure that a sense of urgency guides all our efforts. Fortunately, ICI was amongst the first to see the downturn coming, and the remedial action we took early on to strengthen our balance sheet, to conserve cash and to control costs has allowed us to maintain the dividend.

Acquisitions and divestments

Trading from June onwards became increasingly difficult as fears about the impact of the Gulf War reduced an already shaky business confidence. We were, however, able to conclude a number of important actions. We disposed of our stake in Enterprise Oil, acquired the 50% of Tioxide which we did not own and we bought the Atlas Powder Company in the USA to reinforce our global Explosives business. These are just three examples from sixteen acquisitions and twenty-one divestments which we completed last year as part of a reshaping process. We also reorganised our European businesses and created a new ICI Specialties grouping — both of which will improve efficiency and make us even more responsive to customer needs.

We do not yet see signs of the significant improvement in demand which is essential for a sustained recovery. The upturn should come eventually, although precisely when is hard to predict. Meanwhile, stringent cost control and the maintenance of a strong balance sheet must take priority, but not at the expense of our longer term goals.

Strategies and priorities

Last Autumn, my colleagues and I embarked on a far-reaching review of our existing strategies for both businesses and territories. Our conclusion was that ICI's strategy over the last decade was still directionally correct, but that it needed to be sharpened considerably. We need to be still more competitive, more international and more selective about where we put our resources. Our priority in the future must be given to those businesses where ICI already has, or can develop, a strong, global position in the three major markets of Europe, North America and Asia Pacific. We will concentrate on seven business groupings — Pharmaceuticals; Agrochemicals and Seeds; Specialties; Paints; Industrial Chemicals; Explosives; and a new Materials business which has been formed from ICI's existing expertise in Polyurethanes, Films, Fibres, Acrylics and Advanced Materials.

Businesses with real global profit potential will be priority candidates for expansion, while those without this potential will be maintained as cash generators or identified as candidates for divestment. We have allowed for the costs of further reshaping the ICI Group in the extraordinary item of £300 million which we have charged in the 1990 accounts. In every business and territory, efforts are underway to improve performance and we are determined to back strong businesses now and for the long haul.

We are not short of challenges. But we have excellent people to ensure that we grasp the opportunities of the 90s. To have weathered the last few stormy months has required the considerable skills and dedication of ICI employees everywhere. We value greatly each

There has been real progress on a number of fronts. Firstly, the innovative and responsible application of chemistry and related sciences will probably be the most important single factor in maintaining ICI's success in the future. Despite economic pressures, the Group has increased research and development expenditure to the point where, at £679 million, it is a marginally higher proportion of sales income than in 1989. We make reference in the Annual Report to three Queen's Awards for Technological Achievement and I am happy to say that we have just heard that we have received a further two. I am also pleased to report that we were awarded the prestigious Pollution Abatement Technology Award in the UK for an ICI catalytic process that removes unwanted by-products in a way that allows the products to be recycled. We can all be proud of the fact that through ICI technology we are improving the quality of life in many ways, which is consistent with our objective to ensure substantial profitable growth.

Secondly, I would refer to safety, health and the environment, where we have significantly stepped up our expenditure from over £600 million in 1989 to £740 million last year. Our safety performance is good. For example, our injury rate in 1989 was half that of manufacturing industry generally in the UK. But we still have some way to go before we are the equal of the very best in the chemical industry worldwide. I have set specific objectives regarding the environment which will be carefully monitored and effort and expenditure have increased. We have much to achieve before we can claim that we are operating in harmony with the global environment. But we are working extremely hard to achieve that part of the Group Purpose.

Finally, there is our long term commitment to shareholders and shareholder value. Let me assure you that everything we do has this as a key imperative. No one can be content with the fluctuation of our share price in 1990, and ICI was particularly affected in the early days of the Gulf War. On the other hand, the Board firmly believes that shareholder income deserves high priority and we were determined to maintain the dividend despite the adverse economic conditions. We have also responded to requests that we should consider introducing an ICI PER, which does appear to have been particularly timely in the light of last month's Budget.

The future

So what of the immediate future? You will have seen from the first quarter's results that we are still in the grip of recession in many markets, although I do not think there has been any further deterioration since the end of last year. Indeed, the Gulf War has ended, oil prices have fallen to a more stable level and interest rates are slowly falling by modest steps. My crystal ball remains pretty cloudy about the next few months, but I suspect that 1991 may be the opposite of last year — a very difficult first half, followed by modest improvement in demand if conditions are right.

Critical to recovery is the restoration of business and consumer confidence. That, in turn, depends on much lower inflation and substantially reduced interest rates, adequate availability of credit to finance soundly-based investment plans, and a domestic currency which does not leave British exporters uncompetitively placed in world markets. Whatever the timing of these external events, it is clear that 1991 will be a difficult year. Beyond 1991, I believe that economic growth should resume, although probably at lower rates than in the second half of the last decade.

I remain optimistic that the products and processes of the chemical industry will continue to be much in demand in both the developed and developing worlds. I am also confident that the comprehensive review of policies and actions which I have described this morning will ensure that ICI shares fully in the opportunities before us.

Pre-tax profits just under £1 billion

Dividend maintained

Further reshaping of ICI Group to improve performance

Three Queen's Awards for Technological Achievement in 1990 and two in 1991

£740 million spent on safety, health and environment

individual's contribution and we are committed to ensuring that all who work for ICI feel able to fulfil their potential. An example of this is the strengthening of our Equal Opportunities policy last year and the introduction of new measures to make it easier for women employees to raise a family while still pursuing a serious career in ICI. It is encouraging that the number of women in middle and senior management has virtually trebled in ICI over the last five years, although let us be clear, there is still a very long way to go.

Group Purpose: the ICI values

Underpinning Company policy, financial performance and concern for our people, there has always been a set of values which have consistently guided ICI over the years. Basically, these values describe our commitment to enhance the wealth and well-being of our shareholders, our employees, our customers and the communities in which we operate. Our success must be measured by our ability to translate these objectives into practice.



Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Essex Gen	Property	1.25
2	Aus New Z	Bank, Discount	1.25
3	Lucas	Motors, Aircraft	1.25
4	Procter	Electricals	1.25
5	Ocean Group	Transport	1.25
6	Bilton (P)	Property	1.25
7	Welsh Water	Water	1.25
8	Restons	Industrials L-R	1.25
9	Salvans (Chin)	Foods	1.25
10	Hickson	Chemicals, Plastics	1.25
11	Williams Hides	Industrials S-Z	1.25
12	Wassell	Industrials S-Z	1.25
13	AB Food	Foods	1.25
14	T & N	Industrials S-Z	1.25
15	Unilever	Foods	1.25
16	Tec	Industrials S-Z	1.25
17	Woodside	Oil, Gas	1.25
18	Brent Chem	Chemicals, Plastics	1.25
19	Provident	Bank, Discount	1.25
20	Flexcel C&W	Industrials S-Z	1.25
21	Whitman	Industrials S-Z	1.25
22	Dominio	Electricals	1.25
23	Unilever	Electricals	1.25
24	Davy	Industrials A-D	1.25
25	Pearl Garnet	Leisure	1.25
26	Barnett Canal	Oil, Gas	1.25
27	Bedford	Property	1.25
28	BTR	Industrials A-D	1.25
29	Tridax H	Industrials S-Z	1.25
30	Lex Service	Motors, Aircraft	1.25
31	ES	Industrials S-Z	1.25
32	North West	Water	1.25
33	Assoc Fisheries	Foods	1.25
34	Stern Water	Water	1.25
35	Baker Harris	Property	1.25
36	Tec	Industrials S-Z	1.25
37	Orion Energy	Oil, Gas	1.25
38	Yorkshire Water	Water	1.25
39	Nat Anst Bk	Bank, Discount	1.25
40	TGH	Industrials S-Z	1.25
41	Jardine Math	Industrials S-Z	1.25
42	Simon Eng	Industrials S-Z	1.25
43	Campani	Leisure	1.25
44	Eye (Wimbleton)	Drapery, Stores	1.25

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

Two readers shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr Raymond Conway, of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Mary Reardon, of Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, each receive £1,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 27 1991

Edited by Lindsay Cook

Fimbria fails to protect the elderly

Old people who face losing their homes are being fobbed off by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbria). They were sold investment bonds by Fimbria members with loans raised on the value of their homes.

Now, when the home owners, whose debts are rising every month, complain to Fimbria they are told the regulator can do nothing. "We cannot ban our members from selling the products," a spokeswoman said, adding that the association had "expressed reservations" for more than a year.

More than 40 people have contacted Age Concern, the charity, seeking its help in their claims for compensation against Fimbria. Many more will not know who to turn to as their bond falls in value and interest payments build up. The charity argues that the bonds were never suitable investments for elderly people who had to put their homes at risk to release the

money. It is not just with hindsight, after several years of volatile investment performance, high interest rates and falling house prices, that this argument can be put. Any half-decent financial adviser should have seen the risks long ago and made sure that pensioners were warned in the strongest terms.

It is not enough that the brochure for one such investment bond scheme had a paragraph stating that unit-linked investments can go down as well as up. Yet Fimbria officers investigating one of the complaints seemed to be satisfied the standard investment health warning was sufficient to alert one couple to the risks.

If Fimbria is really suggesting that the standard warning is all that is needed when persuading old people to put their home in jeopardy, then the standards it



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

expects of its members are lower than even the most cynical expected.

More to the point, how can any adviser justify selling such a scheme to an elderly person? Even young people with plenty of time to make up for the vagaries of the markets should be cautious about releasing part of the value of their homes to put in an investment bond.

Fimbria and the Securities and Investments Board have tried to shift the responsibility for such warnings on to the solicitors who handle the conveyancing. As a

rule of thumb, the person who earns the commission should take responsibility for making sure an investor understands the full implications.

In defending the actions of members, Fimbria told one elderly person: "The plan was especially designed for equity release and would therefore have been suitable." It added that the broker could not be held responsible for falling markets.

He ought to be held responsible for selling a scheme that can end in elderly clients losing their home and the investment in it.

Information seems to be the last thing these salesmen and women want to give to potential clients.

At Weekend Money, we have heard from people considering taking out such a scheme who were unaware the bond was invested in the markets. They had understood from the sales pitch that the insurance bond would pay 17 per cent a year, in much the same way as an annuity paid an income. That may be naive, but a pensioner cannot be expected to understand complicated investment products.

Brokers should be obliged to explain them clearly.

Late rally

It is sad to see that individual investors are missing out on the 1991 stock market rally. Figures to be published next

week by the Unit Trust Association will show another bumper month for sales. However, talk to almost any investment house and it will say the statistics are bolstered by the institutional investors and the main brokers.

Individual investors fought shy of the market during the Gulf conflict, and when it was over the rise in markets came too quickly for them. Now some are probably sitting on the sidelines wondering if they are too late.

The fear is that once again they will watch the returns others gain on privatisation issues and other equity investments and pile in just before the market collapses.

In the long-term, shares outperform building society and bank accounts. Now, as interest rates fall again, might be a time for small investors to have a look at equity investment.

The cautious way to do it is through a unit trust or investment trust savings plan putting money into a solid UK general fund.

Government criticism prompts action

Banks to cut back on easy credit offers for students

The easy credit that students have long expected as part of their banking packages is being cut back in response to government criticism.

Two of the main high street banks want to make students and young people more accountable. Their student packages, the first of which will be launched in two weeks, will no longer offer interest-free overdrafts and credit cards automatically to all those setting off to college and university this autumn.

Students will have to demonstrate their maturity and responsibility, to be allowed to go into the red on preferential terms. The change is the result of government criticism. In last year's Budget, John Major, the then Chancellor, criticised the banks for lending too easily.

He said: "I understand the distance many people feel for the widespread marketing of credit that is so evident today and that is characterised by indiscriminate mailshots encouraging people to borrow. I believe financial institutions would be wise to reconsider their policy." He told the banks to tackle the problem in the code of banking practice.

The draft code, published in December, requires banks, when considering whether to lend, to take account of prior knowledge of their customers' financial affairs, information from credit reference agencies, information supplied by applicants and credit scoring. It states: "Particular attention will be paid to applications from young people for credit with the aim of preventing them from over-committing themselves."

In the past, banks have offered £300 overdrafts as of right. They have also included credit cards with loan limits of £250 in the packages. No

Lindsay Cook
discovers the
high street
lenders are
calling a halt
to cheap loans

said: "Research shows that students particularly value the option of having an interest free overdraft, which has been extended this year to take into account increased living expenses."

This year, however, a spokeswoman said overdrafts would be available to students but they will not be automatic. Students wanting to borrow would have to discuss their needs with their branch. They would not receive an Access card "by right". The new attitude is influenced by the government's criticism of banks and public opinion, she said.

Barclays first offered credit cards and overdrafts as part of its student package in the early Eighties. Last year, for the first time, the £250 overdraft was interest-free. The bank will announce this year's package early in June and Jeremy Lawson, marketing manager for current account and card products, said it had not been finalised.

"We would like to present ourselves as responsible lenders. We would not want to encourage young customers, including students, to get into debt. But we are not saying they should not borrow," he said.

He continued: "Public opinion is very firmly against encouraging young people into debt. Yet our research shows that there is a very high expectation among students that they will get into debt, like it or not."

National Westminster Bank, which won 37 per cent of the student market last year, also offered an interest-free overdraft of £300 for the first year. This week, it would not say when its student package will be launched, but the bank does seem to have changed its attitude to overdrafts. A spokesman said it had never been policy to give



Budget timetable: students could suffer from the end of interest-free overdrafts

Code of practice will emphasise customers' rights

A SERIES of meetings between bank and consumer group representatives has begun to thrash out a revised code of banking practice that will emphasise the rights of customers (Lindsay Cook writes).

The first version attracted widespread criticism in more than 350 responses to the draft code published in December.

Respondents, including consumer organisations, felt it concentrated on spelling out the rights of the banks and building societies and not those of personal customers.

Such was the weight of opposition that large sections of the code are to be rewritten after detailed consultation with the Office of Fair Trading, National Consumer Council, Consumers' Association and Debt Protection Register. If they cannot reach a consensus on how the code should be changed a second draft may go to public consultation.

The main areas of complaints were about the levying of bank charges without

informing customers in advance and the passing of customer information to linked financial companies.

Trevor Blackler of National Westminster Bank, the chairman of the working party revising the code, said: "There was also a general impression that the code was too weighted towards the industry. We did not intend this. There are rights and obligations on both sides."

Speaking after a day-long session with the National Consumer Council this week, he said: "We really want to get to a consensus and a voluntary code. We want to flush out the concerns the consumer groups have and put the practicalities of some of the issues to them."

He added: "In a month or so we should know whether it will be possible to reach consensus or whether it is irreconcilable."

For example, he said, billing individual customers 14 days ahead of levying bank charges would be very expensive.

The code is hoped to be in place by the end of this year.

AS INTEREST RATES AND INFLATION FALL...

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The overall downward trend in interest rates and inflation is certainly good news for investors in the UK. A lowering of interest rates should have two benefits:

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Heated complaints flood offices

By SARA MCCONNELL

ALL the main high street banks are receiving several hundred complaints a month about services. Predictably, unexpected charges on statements, problems with cash-point machines and unsolicited direct mailings for life assurance products top the lists of all the banks.

Not all customers are concerned with their own well-being. One TSB customer must have warned staff hearts at one branch by suggesting the heating should be turned down so that female staff did not show so much cleavage.

Another TSB customer expressed concern for all left handed customers who found it difficult to fill in the cheque stubs because the cover of the cheque book gets in the way. The suggested solution was a cheque book with the cheque stubs on the right hand side. Meanwhile, some customers at Lloyds Bank complained when it deserted its traditional bright green cheque book covers in favour of grey.

Comments like this are light relief. There has been no let up in the increase of complaints about banking services, Chris Eadie, assistant banking ombudsman, said, although banks were taking complaints more seriously. "Many banks

have formalised their complaints procedures. The increase in complaints is continuing but this does not indicate disquiet about banking practice, rather that more people know of the existence of the ombudsman."

Banks normally monitor the numbers of complaints when they reach head office and people who complain to

Barclays said 450 complaints a month reached its customer services unit from personal and business customers. Some of the 7 million personal customers prefer to complain to an impersonal voice at the other end of Barclays' free-phone complaints line rather than destroy their relationship with their branch manager.

The bank had 150 com-

plaints a month about the standards of service including errors on statements, mistakes with direct debits and standing orders and the attitudes of cashiers. Complaints about refused personal loans accounted for another 100 a month.

TSB said that its head office received 1,000 complaints a month from its 7 million customers but hoped that there would be fewer complaints about its changing structure

No need to be competitor Sensitive



their branch are not usually included in the statistics. Midland Bank said that it did not count branch complaints as complaints, although head office was aware an unspecified number of people had had problems with cashpoint machines and bank charges.

Midland said the number of complaints in these categories was due to the publicity generated by consumer groups and the banking ombudsman.

10

Property fund misses target for investors

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

TWO investors dissatisfied with the performance of the Target Property Fund have called on the trade and industry department (DTI) to investigate some of its property deals. The investors, from Devon and Wiltshire, are also considering suing Target.

The investors are unhappy about many of the deals done by the fund, which specialised in what it describes as "prime property investments with first class tenants".

The fund bought offices in Nottingham for £40,666 in 1973 and sold them eight years later for £28,000 and in shop bought for £36,258 in 1973 was sold for £20,000 in 1980. According to a list of transactions supplied by Target, 13 of the 81 properties bought and later sold in the Eighties involved losses.

Target also claims that it was unable to take full advantage of the rise in retail property values in the Eighties as it attracted too much money from brokers. At times 50 per cent of the fund was in cash.

Allan Miles, manager of Target's claims department, explained to Graeme Potter, one of the complainants, of Corsham, Wiltshire, that Target did not use the money supplied by broker-managed funds to buy property because this might cause problems with liquidity when brokers wanted to switch out of the fund.

Unlike unit trusts, which will shortly be able to invest directly in property, insurance funds are not restricted on the amount of cash they can hold. In a rising market, a large cash holding dilutes the performance of a fund.

Mr Potter invested £2,760 over ten years in the fund and when his policy matured last May he received £2,820. The following month, as "a gesture of goodwill", Target offered him an extra £465. Alan Newton of Bideford, Devon, the other investor who has complained to the DTI, paid £15 a month into the fund over 19 years, starting in 1971. When he started units were priced at £1.01. When he cashed in his holding in November he was paid £1.80 for



Poor returns: Graeme Potter made a profit of £60

each unit. Over the same period the Jones Lang Wootton index, which the fund hoped to match, increased 13 fold.

Mr Potter said he was planning to employ a surveyor to retrospectively value some of the properties to try and find out if the fund had paid too much and sold for too little.

A Target spokesman said all

the properties in the £7.2 million fund were valued monthly by Jones Lang Wootton and none were sold for less than this independent valuation.

A DTI spokeswoman said the secretary of state had the power to intervene if the performance of a fund did not meet the "reasonable expectations of the policyholders".

Hampshire Building Society

Anchor House, Kingston Crescent, Portsmouth PO2 8BX

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MONEY MARKETS

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was same at 90.8 (day's range 90.7-90.9).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Range	Cable	1 month	3 month
Bank Rates for Apr 29			
New York	1.0695-1.0720	1.0695-1.0695	0.83-0.81
London	1.0695-1.0720	1.0695-1.0695	0.83-0.81
Amsterdam	1.0695-1.0720	1.0695-1.0695	0.83-0.81
Frankfurt	1.0695-1.0720	1.0695-1.0695	0.83-0.81
Paris	1.0695-1.0720	1.0695-1.0695	0.83-0.81
Brussels	1.0695-1.0720	1.0695-1.0695	0.83-0.81
Geneva	1.0695-1.0720	1.0695-1.0695	0.83-0.81
Basel	1.0695-1.0720	1.0695-1.0695	0.83-0.81
Madrid	1.0695-1.0720	1.0695-1.0695	0.83-0.81
Barcelona	1.0695-1.0720	1.0695-1.0695	0.83-0.81
Valencia	1.0695-1.0720	1.0695-1.0695	0.83-0.81
Seville	1.0695-1.0720	1.0695-1.0695	0.83-0.81
Granada	1.0695-1.0720	1.0695-1.0695	0.83-0.81
Malaga	1.0695-1.0720	1.0695-1.0695	0.83-0.81
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London Irish and Rugby draw on their experience

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE union presidents dispense the league silverware to Bath (at Saracens) and Neath today, the dogfight to join the elite of England and Wales goes on. Four clubs challenge for promotion from the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship while three seek to join Newport in elevation from the Heineken League's first division.

Realistically, Rugby and London Irish are the favoured candidates in England; a draw against Newcastle Goefer and Richmond respectively, would be enough for both clubs. Should they both lose, and Coventry and Wakefield win against Sale and Plymouth Albion, then points difference will decide.

However, if Rugby do win, it will be the climax to a remarkable four-year campaign in which they have risen from what was, in 1987, a league north to the first division; an example of self-help from a club which, for all its famous name, was becoming increasingly moribund during the 1970s.

London Irish, on the other hand, have always been there or thereabouts without suggesting they have the necessary

stability to hold down a first division place. That, too, has changed. This afternoon they will be in full cry at Richmond, who are the bottom-most of four famous clubs threatened with descent to the third division.

Second division Promotion zone	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rugby	11	9	0	2	227	138	18
London Irish	11	8	0	3	221	174	18
Coventry	11	8	0	3	170	94	18
Wakefield	11	7	0	4	158	108	16

Relegation zone	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackheath	11	5	0	6	111	188	10
Blackburn	11	5	0	6	91	155	10
Plymouth	11	5	0	6	91	155	10
Richmond	11	5	0	6	81	122	10

While the drama is being played out in the studio theatre, the seniors occupy the main stage with casts of varying strength: the Harlequins, mindful of their cup final a week today, field a second XV at Gloucester though Northampton, their opponents at Twickenham, choose approximately their best XV to play Roslyn Park.

The philosophy of shielding the club first XV has only limited appeal and does scant credit to the paying customers at Kingsholm. However,

Keith Richardson, the Gloucester coach, understands the attitude and Harlequins might point to the league result they achieved at Leicester with a not dissimilar XV.

In Wales, Maesteg, who hardly fancied their chances earlier this season, are well placed to join Newport in what is the premier division this season but will be, next season, the first division - if you follow - since the league will opt for the straight-forward nomenclature of first, second, third and fourth national divisions.

Maesteg beat Ebbw Vale 32-6 earlier this week to go second and play the same opponents today. Their nearest rivals, South Wales Police and Aberavon, play each other but even if the Police win, Maesteg - assuming a second victory over Ebbw Vale - are protected by a substantial try count, which will be the determining factor.

First division Promotion zone	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newport	12	12	0	0	179	47	24
Maesteg	12	10	0	2	145	58	20
Aberavon	12	8	0	4	125	76	16

Dodge's retirement is Leicester's huge loss

By DAVID HANDS

SOME players create an instant impact the first time you see them; others filter their way into the public perception. Paul Dodge was a bit of both - he stood out, literally, for his size when he played first for Leicester at the age of 17, but the more you saw of him, the more you understood the variety of skills which made him such a valued player by his club and his country.

When he made his debut in Leicester's centre in 1975, it was an indifferent era in the club's fortunes. At that stage, his physique, 6ft 2in and 14st, enabled him to survive the buffets of senior rugby when one or two talented contemporaries fell by the way.

That was his ball skills will still be admired by all those who make their way to the Reddings today to watch him in a competitive arena for the last time at Moseley's league game with Leicester. At 33, Dodge had decided that the legs (one of them broken in 1983) have had enough and he follows into retirement Les Cusworth and Clive Woodward, with whom he formed a supreme midfield for Leicester and, too seldom, for England.

He is the last of a club generation of huge distinction: Peter Wheeler, Alan



Dodge: the legs have had more than they can take. Old, Robin Cowling, Gary Adey, Dusty Hare, Nick Youngs, Steve Redfern and the three midfield men all played international rugby between 1975 and 1985 before handing on the torch to Rory Underwood and Dean Richards. It is entirely typical of Dodge that, as he ranges back through a 16-year career which embraced a British Lions tour in 1980 and the captaincy of England in 1985, his first memory should be of club occasions.

"Our cup wins three years on the trot. That was a great team to play in, a side that could do most things, a time when you could go out and play as you wanted." The comment is made more poignant by England's failure to use Dodge to best

advantage, for his size and strength and ability to kick the ball a long way rather than his handling. As an untaught teenager, Dodge probably played as well as he ever did subsequently; his timing and delivery of the ball was a massive part of his armoury, though his organisational skills came to be appreciated by all those with whom he played.

His dependability was such that, in 1985, England turned to him as their captain; in one sense it was an amazing decision because he had no experience of the job and is a notoriously quiet character. In another, it was right because he was, and is, the kind of appealingly honest individual impossible to let down.

Time for London's 'pensioners' to flex their muscles

By PETER BILLS

IN THEIR day, Blackheath and Richmond were the names that mattered among London rugby clubs. Internationals arriving in the capital usually played for one or the other; Blackheath profited, too, from a strong link with the Services. Recruitment campaigns were superlative.

Also, these two esteemed clubs now resemble pensioners, their halcyon days far behind them. For both, the humiliation of relegation to the Courage Clubs Championship third division could be just 80 minutes away today should Richmond lose to London Irish and Blackheath at Waterloo.

Why have such famous clubs found themselves faced with anonymity? How can such a pedigree slip away? Perhaps the lack of a strong identity with the local area has weakened both clubs in recent years.

Deputy, Frank McCarthy, the Blackheath chairman, said was all around the Rectory Field for many years. "The club has marked time, living on its name and tradition. The Leagues perhaps came too early for us."

He has brought in a trio of former players, Slater, Hogg and Ficker, all successful businessmen, to plot the future. "There has been too much talking in committees and not enough action at this club," Hillard said.

"The organisational process here has been antiquated. In this game you cannot afford to stand still. If we do so any longer we will go the same way as London Welsh."

Saints focus on cup

ONLY TWO of the players who helped Northampton win the title last season will play at Bath tomorrow in the third national seven tournament. Barry Clarke and Robbie Olenia survive from the team that beat Rosslyn Park 30-0, but the Saints have others to rely on in the cup final next Saturday.

Bath enter for the first time, on their own ground, with a

team which includes Audley Lamuden and Adeyabo Adeboye, so they will not be part of pace - nor will Leicester, who have the Underwood brothers and Neil Black in their squad.

DRAW (first match 12pm, final 5.30pm): Rosslyn Park v Liverpool St Helens; London Irish v Saracens; Gloucester v Harlequins; Wigan v Wakefield; Leicester v Bath; Northampton v Wakefield; Bath v Northampton.

FOOTBALL			RUGBY UNION			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL			FOOTBALL	
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RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan leave decision on Hanley until last minute

By KERRI MACKLIN

THOSE who believe the theory that one man does not make a team should have felt the gloom at Central Park, Wigan, this week. While the rest of the Wigan players were out on the pitch doing Wembley training, Eilley Hanley was in the treatment room nursing the hamstring injury that may yet keep him out of this afternoon's Silk Cut Challenge Cup final against St Helens.

The fact that Hanley's fitness is still in doubt makes prediction of this afternoon's events a lottery. Wigan, with the inspiring presence of Hanley, are a different side to Wigan without him. They still have a team full of internationals, motivated by brilliant half backs in Gregory and Edwards, yet the team does not seem to click into all gears without the leadership, the drive, and above all the constructive skills of the Wigan and Great Britain captain.

All week Wigan have waited for some sign of an improvement in the hamstring tear that caused Hanley to limp out of the final championship match of the season at Leeds. John Monie, the Wigan coach, said that any normal player would have been ruled out, as Joe Lydon was yesterday. However, as everyone knows, Hanley is no ordinary player, and a half-fit Hanley would still be an essential factor in Wigan's planning and team work.

So Monie has opted to delay a crucial decision to the last possible moment, up to half an hour before the kick-off at Wembley tomorrow. Hanley will be given every possible second of rest to get the hamstring sufficiently right for him to raise even a minor

gallop. Injections would do the rest.

However, if Hanley cannot get out of the starting blocks when his final decision, Andy Goodway, a seasoned Great Britain international, will take over the No. 13 shirt.

While the series of Hanley's fitness has been going on all week, St Helens have continued without interruption on the path of dedicated training which they hope will lead to revenge and restoration of team and civic pride following their 27-0 humiliation against Wigan two years ago.

When asked about that defeat and about the possibility of Hanley being missing, the New Zealand coach of St Helens, Mike McClellan, said: "I know nothing of two years ago. I wasn't here then. Whatever team Wigan turn out we will be ready for them."

For the St Helens supporters in the capacity crowd of nearly 78,000 victory would be sweet, but it is not totally essential. All they ask of the Saints is that they compete and this time give Wigan a game, instead of capitulating cravenly from the opening minutes as they did last time.

McClellan talked and stirred his new-look team to a splendid and unexpected victory over Widnes in the semi-final, and he is a master tactician who will have similar schemes in wait for Wigan.

The St Helens team has been vastly strengthened by the addition of the Welsh half back, Jonathan Griffiths, and two mighty forwards in the New Zealander, George Mann, and the Great Britain international, Kevin Ward. Others like Loughlin, Cooper, Veivers and Bishop have bitter memories to wipe out.

St Helens	Wigan
1. M. Jones	1. S. Hanley
2. J. Pugh	2. J. Pugh
3. J. Pugh	3. J. Pugh
4. J. Pugh	4. J. Pugh
5. J. Pugh	5. J. Pugh
6. J. Pugh	6. J. Pugh
7. J. Pugh	7. J. Pugh
8. J. Pugh	8. J. Pugh
9. J. Pugh	9. J. Pugh
10. J. Pugh	10. J. Pugh
11. J. Pugh	11. J. Pugh
12. J. Pugh	12. J. Pugh
13. J. Pugh	13. J. Pugh
14. J. Pugh	14. J. Pugh
15. J. Pugh	15. J. Pugh

Reference: J. Smith (p. 10)

REPLACEMENTS: G. Connolly and P. Connolly (St Helens); R. Goulding and A. Goulding (Wigan)

† May be replaced by A. Goodway

Depending on the luck of the draw

By KEN LAWRENCE

I AM not one of those who stumble over the end of the rainbow, my premium bond number never comes up. I never get a cheque from Mr Littlewood or win a British Airways prize. Which is why, long ago, I opted out of life's lucky dips.

However, I would appear to be a rare bird. Viewers will respond by the hundreds of thousands when shortly asked to judge which is snooker's Shot of the Championship and which is football's Goal of the Season, in the hopes of winning either a trip to the snooker final at the Crucible or a VIP journey to the European Cup Winners' Cup final.

By Monday, the BBC's backroom boys will have put together a positive pot pourri of spicy shots. That evening (BBC2, 9.00 and 11.25pm) these will be screened and viewers will be asked by David Vine to nominate their choice.

Before British Telecom made calling in so simple, 250,000 postcards would pour into the Crucible in three days. Then, boy scouts were employed to sift the thousands of cards. One, much against his will, was forced by his father to slip six all-correct cards into the pile from which the prize-winner would be drawn - to no avail. The fraud was easily spotted.

SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

At lunch-time today, another major competition opens up in the *Saint and Grease* Show (ITV, 12.30pm). The present Goal of the Season competition began when ITV won the football's Goal of the Season, in the hopes of winning either a trip to the snooker final at the Crucible or a VIP journey to the European Cup Winners' Cup final.

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ITV divides all the votes by each club's average gate to ensure a fair result.

THE WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY: St Helens' efforts to stop Wigan top billing in Grandstand (BBC1, 12.30pm). The show includes world snooker, and there is more from the Crucible on BBC2 at 4.45, 8.00pm, and at 12.30am. The West Indies Australia Test in Anglia is live on SkySports (8 and 10pm) tomorrow. The Grand Prix from Imola is live on BBC2 (12.40pm) and Eurosport (12.45pm). Television's love affair with Paul Gascoigne continues on ITV (Gazze - The Real Me at 4.55pm).

MONDAY: The first of time slots on BBC2 comes at 2.45 as the battle for quarter-final places concludes: 9 and 11.25pm are the evening highlights. Live Cricket takes the SkySports battle from Anglia, and on Eurosport, memories of the great British bowlers, John Connel and Chris Finnegan, are regaled in Superbowl (8pm).

TUESDAY: Quarter final action from The Crucible (BBC2, 2.40, 4.45, and 11.20pm); for less gentlemanly behaviour, the world ice hockey championships are continuing in Finland (Eurosport 3 and 9pm).

WEDNESDAY: A big day: England's crucial European Championship trip to Turkey is live on BBC2 (8.55pm) and on SkySports (8 and 10pm) tomorrow. The Grand Prix from Imola is live on BBC2 (12.40pm) and Eurosport (12.45pm). Television's love affair with Paul Gascoigne continues on ITV (Gazze - The Real Me at 4.55pm).

THURSDAY: The first of time slots on BBC2 comes at 2.45 as the battle for quarter-final places concludes: 9 and 11.25pm are the evening highlights. Live Cricket takes the SkySports battle from Anglia, and on Eurosport, memories of the great British bowlers, John Connel and Chris Finnegan, are regaled in Superbowl (8pm).

FRIDAY: Racing from Newmarket (ITV, 2.30pm). Snooker highlights from The Crucible (BBC2, 2.40, 4.45, and 11.20pm).

In The Groove mightier than the word

By RICHARD EVANS

THE form book rather than the racecourse and gallops whispering of triumph and defeat, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, the most important ingredients of any racehorse's life.

White Zetina and long-time leader Aldobrandi battled for the lead between the two and one-furlong poles, Caubien waited.

As he explained later, he could feel In The Groove beginning to tire but, when he gave her one crack with the whip, she responded most gamely, and found the decisive burst of speed which is her hallmark.

Despite showing signs of running out of steam towards the end of a race which is arguably short for her best distance, Caubien was shattered swiftly in the Harvester Graduation Stakes.

including the Eclipse Stakes, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, the most important ingredients of any racehorse's life.

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The painful sound of bubbles bursting over the Esher slopes was eclipsed only by Cusani's criticism of work-watcher at Newmarket whom he blamed for "hyping" Suomi, winner of a Newcastle maiden last autumn.

"Sometimes even trainers cannot understand gallops but reporters and work-watcher seem to know best and type a horse up. Then people are let down."

"Most of the people watching gallops know nothing about it. I suppose in Newmarket we have to live with this. But by and large they are inexperienced people. They see one horse and then think it is a world-beater. It is misleading to the public."

Cusani may have a point but Suomi's disappointing performance will be a blow to the talented trainer. Privately, he

held high hopes for the son of Tote Gallery.

Ironically, Fife, the 25-1 winner, is owned like the favourite by Sheikh Mohammed. Fife, the only filly in the field, is likely to go for the Maudslayi Stakes at Royal Ascot, her trainer, Barry Hills, said.

Clive Brittain can do nothing wrong at the moment, and after recording a 31-1 double with Walk That Walk and Endell, he revealed the secret of his success - a change in the water drunk by his horses. He changed water supplies from the canals to a private bore because of the improved quality and cost of privatised supplies.

Brian Rouse, who partnered Chance To Dream, runner-up to Walk That Walk, was banned for two days by the stewards for

excessive use of the whip. The suspension starts on May 5.

Rose, has reported to the Wheeler's Restaurant Handicap when the sprinter won his first race since his juvenile days. The five-year-old has been called all sorts of names and has earned the dreaded *Timeform* squiggle following some less than enthusiastic performances.

Boss eventually discovered that Access Travel does not enjoy being hit with a jockey's whip. In fact, the jockey is about to be whipped. Frankie Dettori was under the strictest instructions to keep his hands steady and not to use the "persuader".

Saturday, the jockey's pay-off of Access Travel caught Bold Lex in the final stride.

LOWING the victor in 1985 and 1986, Caubien was the only filly capable of being the third Irish winner of the Whitehead Cup.

Having won only one race since his juvenile days, Caubien was the only filly capable of being the third Irish winner of the Whitehead Cup.

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MANDARIN

2.15 Stepfather. 2.45 Magic Soldier. 3.15 Durlight. 3.45 Sage Brush. 4.15 Choice Challenge. 4.45 Kusbhaloo.

THUNDER

2.15 Stepfather. 2.45 Achitube. 3.15 Knocknair. 3.45 Facility Letter. 4.15 Choice Challenge. 4.45 Kusbhaloo.

GOING: FIRM

2.15 CHESTERS TOWN MAJORS NOVICES

CHASE (2m 4f, 22.5m) (13)

1.10UR FIRST SHADOW (5.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
2.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
3.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
4.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
5.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
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11.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
12.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
13.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty

2.45 NORTHUMBERLAND TRAINING AND ENTERPRISE COUNCIL HANDICAP HURDLE

(22.40m 4f, 22.5m) (10)

1.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
2.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
3.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
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12.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
13.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty

3.15 GLESGATE VOLVO MAIDEN HEAT OF ALL ENGLAND HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs)

(21.7m 3m 20f) (20)

1.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
2.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
3.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
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12.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
13.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty

MANDARIN

2.15 Stepfather. 2.45 Magic Soldier. 3.15 Durlight. 3.45 Sage Brush. 4.15 Choice Challenge. 4.45 Kusbhaloo.

THUNDER

2.15 Stepfather. 2.45 Achitube. 3.15 Knocknair. 3.45 Facility Letter. 4.15 Choice Challenge. 4.45 Kusbhaloo.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (WATERING)

5.30 PERSHORE NOVICES HURDLE

(22.5m 2m 2f, 22.5m) (10)

1.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
2.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
3.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
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12.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
13.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty

6.00 BEWLEY NOVICES HURDLE

(22.5m 2m 2f, 22.5m) (10)

1.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
2.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
3.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
4.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
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12.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
13.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty

MANDARIN

2.15 Stepfather. 2.45 Magic Soldier. 3.15 Durlight. 3.45 Sage Brush. 4.15 Choice Challenge. 4.45 Kusbhaloo.

THUNDER

2.15 Stepfather. 2.45 Achitube. 3.15 Knocknair. 3.45 Facility Letter. 4.15 Choice Challenge. 4.45 Kusbhaloo.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (WATERING)

5.30 PERSHORE NOVICES HURDLE

(22.5m 2m 2f, 22.5m) (10)

1.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
2.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
3.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
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6.00 BEWLEY NOVICES HURDLE

(22.5m 2m 2f, 22.5m) (10)

1.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
2.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
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THUNDER

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GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (WATERING)

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(22.5m 2m 2f, 22.5m) (10)

1.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
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13.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty

6.00 BEWLEY NOVICES HURDLE

(22.5m 2m 2f, 22.5m) (10)

1.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
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13.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty

MANDARIN

2.15 Stepfather. 2.45 Magic Soldier. 3.15 Durlight. 3.45 Sage Brush. 4.15 Choice Challenge. 4.45 Kusbhaloo.

THUNDER

2.15 Stepfather. 2.45 Achitube. 3.15 Knocknair. 3.45 Facility Letter. 4.15 Choice Challenge. 4.45 Kusbhaloo.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (WATERING)

5.30 PERSHORE NOVICES HURDLE

(22.5m 2m 2f, 22.5m) (10)

1.10UR MISS FERNY (7.5m) M Hammon 10-11-11 M Doughty
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6.00 BEWLEY NOVICES HURDLE

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THUNDER

2.15 Stepfather. 2.45 Achitube. 3.15 Knocknair. 3.45 Facility Letter. 4.15 Choice Challenge. 4.45 Kusbhaloo.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (WATERING)

5.30 PERSHORE NOVICES HURDLE

Huddle campaign for real football

STROLLING out of the dressing room, looking as dapper as ever in a designer sweater, he could have been any other young player who did not have a care in the world other than kicking a football. Pressures of the job, fear of failure have yet to weigh him down as they do most managers in his position, facing relegation.

But then Glenn Hoddle always was a laid back kind of character, too laid back, some might say, for the rigours of management. Another reason, if only to explain why he was smiling, was that he had just spent an hour and a half doing what, for the time being, he still does best — kicking a football.

Hoddle took time out last Wednesday from fretting over how he could turn Swindon Town's good performances into good results by steering the reserves, from his experimental role of sweeper, to a 6-1 win over Millwall and then remarked: "That was great for me to switch off and just have my mind on football again."

Watching Hoddle, as elegant as ever, drop his 60-yard passes on to the tottering of Swindon youngsters at the County Ground, it was hard to believe that Chris Waddle, his great friend and former fellow Francophile, would take any greater satisfaction later in the day when he and his Marcellis colleagues claimed their place in the European Cup final.

It was only Hoddle's second competitive game in 20 months since a knee injury, sustained while playing for Monaco, concentrated his mind, at the age of 33, on his



Swindon crusader: behind the Hoddle smile and the calm exterior is the man battling to avoid relegation

While the role of sweeper may, in some ways, seem to have been designed with Hoddle in mind, it would mean that he would be less involved than he was in midfield and he was concerned about that. Involvement for Hoddle means letting the ball do the work. He said that he felt sorry watching Millwall's forwards expend half their energy trying to close him down.

Hoddle is only too aware that the idea of him fulfilling the defensive duties of the sweeper might cause some to

snigger, but he maintained that he could defend when he needed to.

"It's going to be a new experience for me. I never asserted myself defensively before because I did not see that as my function. My mind wasn't clouded into it but it will be a little more now."

It sounded totally alien to everything Hoddle stood for as a player to hear him talking of getting the defence right and clean sheets, but his philosophy on the game has not changed and he remains passionately committed to defeat-

ing the long-ball game at every opportunity he gets.

"In England we're a little bit shallow in the sense that we say: 'We're not good enough, we're going to chase and run and kick it in the channels.' Sometimes I think it's the English Channel they kick it into."

"It's a fallacy that we can't play in this country. A lot of young players are not allowed to play, so we don't see half the talents they've got. They've got to be encouraged to play and allowed to make mistakes."

Playing football in the Tottenham tradition in which he was brought up and seeing it succeed is almost a crusade for Hoddle, more important even than the glory.

In at least one respect Hoddle has a big advantage over his fellow idealists who sacrificed their principles when the fear of losing their job became too great. Any man who can afford to pass up the remainder of a £10,000 a week contract to keep what he believes is an appointment with destiny is not going to be easily sidetracked.

Cobbold gives up control at Ipswich

PATRICK Cobbold has resigned as chairman of Ipswich Town after increasing pressure from supporters to stand down with the club at its lowest ebb for 25 years. He will be succeeded by John Kerr, a Suffolk farmer.

The resignation means that for only the second time in their history as a professional club, Ipswich will not have a member of the Cobbold family as head of the board.

In a tribute to Cobbold, his successor said: "He has had this club on the crest of his wave. He won the FA Cup in 1978 and to victory in the UEFA Cup of 1981. He has a style that is unique."

Kevin Sheedy, Everton's Republic of Ireland midfielder, has asked to be taken off the transfer list. Sheedy requested a move last August. The Liverpool defender, Gary Gillespie, has pulled out of Scotland's European championship qualifying match in San Marino next week with a hamstring injury.

Michael McGuire, a 53-year-old retired businessman, is the new chairman of fourth-division Northampton Town, having bought the controlling shareholding held by Dick Underwood, who put the club up for sale after revealing a net debt approaching £500,000.

A point may suit Oldham

By CLIVE WHITE

THE nagging disappointment of narrow failure in cup and League last season will be vanquished for Oldham Athletic today if they win away to Ipswich Town and thereby clinch promotion to the first division. A draw will suffice, if Notts County fail to beat Plymouth Argyle at home.

It will be no more than Joe Royle and his team deserve for bouncing back the way they have this season. The same might be said of Sheffield Wednesday, on whom relegation stealthily crept up on last season and who were then unhelpfully denied a reprieve when Swindon Town

lost their first division place by default.

Wednesday are determined that last Sunday's Rumbelows Cup victory over Manchester United will not be their consolation prize for the season, though they may have to stop being so generous to visitors if they are to go up with West Ham United and, in all probability, Oldham.

Wednesday, who need nine points from their last five games to be sure of promotion, were brought down from the clouds by Leicester City in midweek and today receive Barnsley, a side with rather better credentials. Then, Leicester and nurturing hopes of promotion themselves.

"Barnsley have had three games in six days, which is quite a test for them — but this will be our second one since last Sunday," Ron Atkinson, the Wednesday manager, said. "I don't think the draw against Leicester was disastrous, especially in view of our goal difference advantage."

Wednesday will be boosted by the return of Carlton Palmer, their outstanding young midfielder player who missed the Wembley final and the Leicester match through suspension.

West Ham, who achieved promotion a week ago, still need a maximum of nine points from four games to ensure that they go up as

champions. Blackburn Rovers, who receive the London club, will be just as motivated though, seated as they are, precariously close to the third division.

Stuart Pearson, the West Bromwich Albion assistant manager, has set his players, as they prepare for the game against Port Vale at the Hawthorns, a six-point target if they are not to avoid relegation to the third division for the first time in their 112-year history.

"The crazy thing about this season is that all the sides at the bottom of the table are now showing promotion form," the former England forward said.

Yorath makes changes

TERRY Yorath, the Welsh manager, has called Colin Pascoe, the Sunderland forward, and Gavin Maguire, the Portsmouth defender, into his squad for the international against Iceland in Cardiff on Wednesday.

Pascoe will replace Ian Rush, of Liverpool, who withdrew from the players' camp on Thursday with a thigh injury, while Maguire comes in for Eric Young, the Crystal Palace defender, who cried off on Monday with a knee injury.

Yorath intends to use the Iceland game and the friendly against Poland in Radom on May 29 as warm-up games for the vital European Championship game with Germany in Cardiff on June 5.

"It's obviously a blow losing Ian, but this will give some of the younger players a chance to show what they can do," Yorath said.

Yorath plans to watch Iceland in action against England B at Watford tomorrow. Clive Thompson, the Lincoln City manager, has been charged by the FA with bringing the game into dispute after a recent local derby against Southport. Thompson had to be restrained by his players and allegedly swore at referee John Kay, who sent off another Lincoln player and booked a total of six others from both sides.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Milwaukee Brewers 5, Texas Rangers 3; Toronto Blue Jays 5, Detroit Tigers 4; Minnesota Twins 4, Seattle Mariners 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati Reds 8, Chicago Cubs 4; Pittsburgh Pirates 8, Montreal Expos 3; Philadelphia Phillies 6, New York Mets 3; Los Angeles Dodgers 7, San Francisco Giants 3.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Philadelphia 76ers 105, New York Knicks 97; Philadelphia 76ers 105, New York Knicks 97; Philadelphia 76ers 105, New York Knicks 97.

INTERNATIONAL: Spain 81, Greece 76; Spain 81, Greece 76; Spain 81, Greece 76.

CRICKET

RAPID CRICKET LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP: Essex 100, Lancashire 88; Essex 100, Lancashire 88; Essex 100, Lancashire 88.

FOOTBALL

LIBERTY CUP: First round: Aston Villa 3, Notts County 0; Notts County 3, Aston Villa 0; Notts County 3, Aston Villa 0.

LIBERTY CUP: Second round: Aston Villa 3, Notts County 0; Notts County 3, Aston Villa 0; Notts County 3, Aston Villa 0.

GOLF

GREENSBORO: First round: Greg Norman 68, Tiger Woods 69, Fred Couples 70, John Mahoney 71, Tom Kite 72, Corey Pate 73, Mark O'Meara 74, Lanny Wadkins 75, Jay Haas 76, Steve Stricker 77, Jeff Maguire 78, Jeff Borom 79, Jeff Borom 80, Jeff Borom 81, Jeff Borom 82, Jeff Borom 83, Jeff Borom 84, Jeff Borom 85, Jeff Borom 86, Jeff Borom 87, Jeff Borom 88, Jeff Borom 89, Jeff Borom 90, Jeff Borom 91, Jeff Borom 92, Jeff Borom 93, Jeff Borom 94, Jeff Borom 95, Jeff Borom 96, Jeff Borom 97, Jeff Borom 98, Jeff Borom 99, Jeff Borom 100, Jeff Borom 101, Jeff Borom 102, Jeff Borom 103, Jeff Borom 104, Jeff Borom 105, Jeff Borom 106, Jeff Borom 107, Jeff Borom 108, Jeff Borom 109, Jeff Borom 110, Jeff Borom 111, Jeff Borom 112, Jeff Borom 113, Jeff Borom 114, Jeff Borom 115, Jeff Borom 116, Jeff Borom 117, Jeff Borom 118, Jeff Borom 119, Jeff Borom 120, Jeff Borom 121, Jeff Borom 122, Jeff Borom 123, Jeff Borom 124, Jeff Borom 125, Jeff Borom 126, Jeff Borom 127, Jeff Borom 128, Jeff Borom 129, 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Tottenham Hotspur's manager takes legal aid

Taylor defends choice of Wise

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM Taylor yesterday defended his selection of Dennis Wise, whose inclusion in the national squad for the European championship qualifying tie in Turkey on Wednesday caused as much bemusement as the exclusion of Chris Waddle. England's manager reiterated that the two decisions were not linked. "Wise is the replacement for Steven," Taylor said tersely, "and not for Waddle. I took the time to explain that we had a shortage of balance down the right-hand side. I'm not prepared to give explanations if they are going to be misrepresented or not recorded."

A natural conclusion can be drawn. Waddle, though he has been credited with leading Manchester to the final of the European Cup, does not fit into the system envisaged by Taylor. Wise, though he himself concedes that his form at Chelsea this season has been at best inconsistent, does.

Waddle argues that he is now benefiting from the comparative freedom given to him by his French club. Rather than filling a dual role, he is released from the defensive duties which he would be carrying out for England and ordered to work only in the opponents' half.

"Waddle has played 61 times for England," Taylor said, "and players have to produce consistent performances. I don't think that he and Barnes have been asked to do anything beyond their capabilities. Besides, how many in the team can have a free role? All I want from forwards is goals."

Waddle has scored six and Barnes ten in 62 appearances. Taylor, who revealed that Gascoigne would have been recalled had he been available, could next week choose to omit Barnes, the winger he nurtured at Watford, and bring in the 19-year-old Sharpe for his first full cap.

Since Beardsley and Robinson have also surprisingly been left out of England's closing qualifying tie of the season, the line-up promises to feature other fresh figures.

As well as Wise, Smith, of Arsenal, and Thomas, of Crystal Palace, may be brought in against the Turks. Like many newcomers in the B squad, they perform for clubs associated with the long-ball game.

Venables makes efforts to stop Gascoigne's sale

By DENNIS SIGNY

TERRY Venables, the manager of Tottenham Hotspur, consulted his lawyers yesterday in an effort to stop the sale of Paul Gascoigne to Lazio, the Italian club, for £7.5 million.

Nat Solomon, the chairman of Tottenham Hotspur plc, and Gascoigne's advisers, Mel Stein and Len Lazarus, travelled to Rome on Thursday to discuss a deal which, if completed, would relieve the pressure on the club from the Midland Bank to pay off a debt of £11 million.

Venables claims that three years ago, when he joined the club from Barcelona, the then chairman, Irving Scholar, agreed that the manager was to be responsible for the buying and selling of players.

Venables, who was not warned of Solomon's visit to Italy, was at Tottenham's training ground at Mill Hill yesterday when he spoke to Gascoigne about the latest developments in what has turned into a long-running saga.

Venables said later: "As far as I'm concerned, this is not a one-in-a-lifetime proposition for him. He is only 23. There will be bigger and better clubs for him."

Venables seems to have been referring to an earlier approach from Juventus, who, it was reported shortly after the World Cup finals, were prepared to pay £10 million

for Gascoigne and leave him with Tottenham for a season or two.

Clearly, Venables does not regard Lazio as one of the leading Italian clubs. "I don't think it would be good for him. There is not enough money," he said.

Venables, who had spent several of the previous hours with telephones glued to his ears, said he was unaware of any developments from Italy and was hopeful that his own consortium would be given the "breathing space" to succeed with a £20 million bid for the club.

He has been telling friends that his consortium would have the money in place before the FA Cup final in which Tottenham meet Nottingham Forest, on May 18.

While Solomon and the Tottenham directors are clearly reacting to pressure to reduce the club's debts, the latest developments will not help Venables or Gascoigne to concentrate on the remaining League matches this season or preparations for their visit to Wembley in three weeks.

A new scenario for the future of Tottenham Hotspur emerged yesterday. It was suggested that a new consortium might emerge to buy Tottenham, if Gascoigne was sold and the price for the club dropped.

Stein, who returned to England yesterday, claimed that

discussions with Lazio were continuing. "Until I hear there is a clarification contract between Tottenham and Lazio I cannot comment on the situation between Gascoigne and Lazio," he said.

In Rome, Carlo Regalia, the sports director of Lazio, said: "We are not close to a signature. It won't be today. So much has been said about this transfer, that it's on, that it's off. We would rather not talk about it."

A spokesman for Tottenham Hotspur plc, Cass Robertson, said: "We have had anxious shareholders and fans weeping down the telephone. But they'll have to go on agonising for a bit longer. We can't say anything until we have something official to say."

While Gascoigne's future remains in doubt, Tottenham have angered many supporters by announcing season ticket price increases of between 28 and 46 per cent.

The most expensive seat in the upper tier of the West Stand will cost £384 for next season, an increase of £85. Season ticket prices go up by more than £100, from £253 to £360, in other areas of the same stand.

A standing season ticket on The Shelf increases by 40 per cent from £120 to £168. Season ticket holders have until June 1 to apply for renewal.



Tour of inspection: Frano Botica, Wigan's goalkeeper, soaks up the Wembley atmosphere on the eve of the final

Wigan waiting in hope

By KEITH MACKLIN

WIGAN'S inspirational captain, Ellery Hanley, will not decide until half-an-hour before today's scheduled kick-off time of 2.30pm whether his hamstring injury has improved sufficiently for him to take part in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final against St Helens at Wembley. It will be a morning of suspense for all the club's officials, players and supporters.

Wigan have already suffered one serious blow. Another Great Britain international, Joe Lydon, failed a fitness test on his hamstring injury during a training session yesterday afternoon.

His place on the wing is taken by David Myers.

That Wigan are willing to take an enormous gamble on the fitness of their captain, is a tribute not only to his skills and power, but also to his personality and leadership on the field of play. Without these attributes, even Wigan's team of internationals seems less potent.

John Monie, the Wigan coach, has waited all week for some sign of improvement in Hanley's condition, although he has privately feared the worst as day after day of Wembley training has passed without Hanley appearing on the pitch.

Hanley has spent most of the week on and around the treatment table. He is desperately anxious to play and would willingly turn out at Wembley on crutches if possible. However, as Monie has said: "Either Ellery will be able to run, or he won't. I will give him right up to the last second to make his mind up — and ours."

Meanwhile, St Helens have settled back at their training headquarters at Beaconsfield, allowing Wigan to publicly agonise over Hanley while they themselves have worked on the tactics which they feel will surprise and ultimately prevent Wigan from winning the trophy for the fourth successive season.

Victory, however, is not the sole ambition of the Saints. For two years the town, its population, supporters and not least the players have snarled from the humiliating 27-0 thrashing inflicted by Wigan when they last met at Wembley.

"It would be marvellous to win, but the most important thing of all is that this time we make a fight of it and leave the field with our heads high," the club secretary, Geoff Sutcliffe, said.

Wigan's final test, page 32

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Wigan's final test, page 32

Becker unlocks secret of clay

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
MONTE CARLO

THE defending champion, Andrei Chesnokov, summed it up best. "6-1, 6-3. This facile," he said, dropping into his fluent Soviet-French. He was right. It was astonishingly easy for Boris Becker, who will play Goran Prpic in the semi-finals of the Monte Carlo Open today. Horst Skoff, of Austria, who reached the semi-final for the third time in his adopted home town, will play the talented Spaniard, Sergi Bruguera.

By rights, if there was a clay-court lesson to be delivered yesterday, Chesnokov should have been the tutor. He loves the patient cut-and-thrust of the red clay and has won four titles on the stuff, including, of course, the Monte Carlo Open last year. Becker has always had a love-hate relationship with a surface he was brought

up on but has never come to terms with and has not won any.

Most of the world No. 2's embarrassing moments have come on clay: against Juan Aguilera in the final of the German Open at Hamburg last year or Jimmy Arias here in the Monte Carlo. It seemed at times that Becker would never unlock the secret of clay and little in his victories over Javier Sanchez and Alex Volkov this week suggested otherwise. Until yesterday.

Knowing that he would not outlast Chesnokov, Becker, the No. 2 seed, decided to attack from the start, cleverly changing the pace and angle of his shot and never letting the Mancovite find his balance or his rhythm on the baseline.

Somehow Chesnokov sensed that this was not to be his day. Time and again, he was drawn like a reluctant donkey to the net by the drop shot, only to be passed at will

on either side. Whenever the No. 2 seed did manage to get his ground strokes into gear, Becker's imposing frame was hovering over the net ready to sweep away the volley.

"It was one of the best five clay-court matches of my life," Becker admitted.

The problem was that too often in the past the idol has woken up next morning with feet of clay and it will be a sobering thought for the Australian Open champion that he will have to play even better today to beat Prpic, the gentle Yugoslav, who is playing with supreme confidence after a flying start to the year.

"He will not miss much and he has a good mind. I will have to make the points," Becker said. In other words, he will have to play with the aggression that characterises his grass-court play rather than wait to be outmanoeuvred by a smaller nipper man — even one with a

massive leg brace protecting his right knee — as has happened so often in the past.

There have been too many false dawns to start making extravagant predictions yet but if Becker can snatch his first clay-court title from under the noses of specialists like Skoff and Prpic and not 200 yards from his own front door his chances of winning his first French Open title next month would be enormously enhanced.

Nick Brown and Jeremy Bates enjoyed a good preparation for Britain's Davis Cup tie against Poland next month by reaching the quarter-finals of the doubles, but yesterday found the No. 1 seeds, Sergio Casal and Emilio Sanchez, a little too strong.

RESULTS: Men's singles: Quarter-finals: Becker (Ger) vs A Chesnokov (USSR), 6-1, 6-3, 6-3; Prpic (Cro) vs G Skoff (AUS), 6-4, 6-3; H Skoff (AUS) vs J Sanchez (Sp), 6-3, 6-4; S Bruguera (Sp) vs M Gussakov (Sp), 7-6, 7-6.

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Dessie goes to Downing Street

By RICHARD EVANS

DESERT Orchid will visit Downing Street in the summer to champion the cause of less exalted horses who face the prospect from 1992 of being exported alive for slaughter.

The nation's favourite racehorse will be outside No. 10 to help present the prime minister with a petition calling on the Government to take action to prevent needless suffering to hundreds of equine animals.

Existing British welfare regulations which prevent the

live export for slaughter of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules face being swept away by the creation of a single European market by 1992.

Jimmy Burridge, one of Desert Orchid's owners, said yesterday: "We have agreed in principle that Dessie should go to Downing Street because it is for such a brilliant cause."

The decision to allow the flying grey to travel to the nerve centre of British political life is a coup for the International League for the Protection of Horses, based near Norwich, which is campaigning to stop the live

export of horses. Col George Stephen, chief executive, could hardly believe his luck when told of Desert Orchid's new role.

"It is fantastic," Stephen said. "Desert Orchid has become the symbol for all that is best in British horses: bravery, beauty, celebrity and success. While he will never face the threat of being sold off for meat, there is an awful lot of horses not quite as good as him who have done their stuff by mankind and who have gone for slaughter."

Just how Desert Orchid will get to Downing Street after

travelling from his Leicester-shire base has still to be worked out. "We have not even begun to tackle how he gets there, where he is housed and whether he walks down The Mall," Burridge added. "I don't know how he will deliver the petition. If it is put in his mouth he will eat it."

The visit is likely to be made in late June or early July, close to the Desert Orchid open day when fans visit the horse in his stable. The petition, carrying tens of thousands of signatures, will call for a total ban on the export of horses for slaughter.

Hodde's destiny, page 35

Major ignores the Marxian edict to join MCC

This column, which has long held to the Groucho Marx principle of clubbability, extends its sympathy to John Major, who suffered the indignity this week of being elected to the MCC, overlooking a waiting list of 9,000 to do so. In this achievement, he becomes the eighth of the 18 twentieth century prime ministers to be an MCC member. By one of those cosmic, those well-nigh Nostradamian coincidences, all eight have been Tories.

I shall deal with the prime ministers chronologically. First was Arthur Balfour, second Stanley Baldwin, who later became president — of the MCC, I mean, not of Great Britain. Winston Churchill was made a honorary life member after the war, despite his lack of any desperate enthusiasm for the game. The next three were all MCC members when they became prime ministers: Anthony Eden, Harold Macmillan and Alec Douglas-Home. Douglas-Home became an MCC member in 1926, and was president

in 1966. The seventh was Ted Heath, who was made a member in 1970, shortly before becoming PM.

The club's biggest miss was Clement Attlee, who was devoted to the game, despite his failure to belong to the MCC's favourite political party. In fact, when asked about Europe in the early 60s, he said: "The trouble with the Europeans is that they don't play cricket."

□ In the space of eight days, Wembley Stadium will have been used for football, rugby league and American football. But they have never played cricket there. History will be made on September 8 in a giant stunt called the "Cricketthon Day", which will include a match between Europe and the Rest of the World at Wembley. The aim of the entire enterprise is to raise between £10 and £12

million. Half will go to Group Captain Leonard Cheshire's Fund for Disaster Relief, and half to schools cricket: a bizarre notion of joint priorities if ever there was one.

□ Faithful readers will recall Lisa Olson, she of the New England Patriots sexual harassment scandal. Olson, a reporter collecting post-match quotes in the locker-room at the time of the incident last autumn, has now decided to sue the Patriots for sexual harassment and violations of her civil rights. The suit also alleges intentional infliction of emotional distress and intentional damage to her professional reputation. If you thought gridiron football was a hard game, I suggest you try the American legal system.

□ Stable talk
As I ponder possible names for any progeny from my beautiful but indisputable mare, currently visiting a handsome stallion, I have been considering these examples. Blow a Gasket, to Gossip Column out of Private Princess. The Boss, by Tim

God out of Liquid Lunch. Instant Dismissal, by First Footman out of Something's Missing. Wild Oats, by Rapid Pass out of Pleasure Seeker. These and other pedigrees, along with a number of cheerfully ribald rhymes, come from a book called *Horse Trials and Tribulations*, proceeds in aid of the Spinal Injuries Association, obtainable from them at 76 St James Lane, London N10 3DF, price £3 including p and p.

league when Santa Anastasia took on Tressana. After 65 minutes, the ref gave a foul against the visiting club, Tressana. A linesman, who was also a Tressana official, ran on to the pitch, and, using his flag as a bludgeon proceeded to wade through the entire opposition, who were flung into total panic by the assault. One player had a broken nose.

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BANK OF SCOTLAND MORTGAGES

Bank of Scotland announces the following changes in interest rates which for new borrowers are effective from 7th May 1991 and for existing customers immediately following their payment on or after 20th May 1991.

Home Loan Rate 12.85% per annum
Stabilised Charging Rate 12.95% per annum

Bank of Scotland, Head Office, The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ.

BANK OF SCOTLAND
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

No 64,005

Guerrilla
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From George Baoc

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, yesterday won unanimous support from EC foreign ministers for a plan to replace all soldiers guarding Kurds in Iraq with armed UN policemen. The plan is to the UN Security Council today.

The foreign secretary said the RBC that some other than relief would soon be needed to keep the Kurds safe. "I would be UN. They are their arms under the authority of the UN," he said.

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